Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Contacts Reported Between Al-Asad, Mubarak

JN1705104889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Highly placed Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus and Rabat have said that contacts are currently being held between Cairo and Damascus through several Arab capitals, including Riyadh and Rabat, to prepare for the meeting that will be held between Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the sidelines of the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca on 23 May.

These sources told AL-ITTIHAD that several unannounced meetings between Syrian and Egyptian officials were held in the capitals of the two countries during the past 3 months, and that these meetings have greatly contributed to the current progress in relations between the two countries.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Envoy Warns of Move To 'Military Option'

JN1805100489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Manama, 18 May (WAKH)—Rafiq al-Natshah, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Saudi Arabia, has warned that the PLO will move toward the military option.

In a statement to the Bahraini AL-AYYAM published today, Al-Natshah said: When we become certain that all peace efforts have failed, we will focus our efforts on the basic option, which will be the only course of action—namely, armed struggle from both the inside and outside.

He added that the Palestinian leadership will reconsider all its policies and militant methods if it becomes certain at any point in time that the U.S. Administration will continue its stand against the Palestinian people and their legitimate national rights, and its illegitimate support for the Israeli occupation and its brutal practices.

He explained that the PLO will not stop the dialogue with the United States over the latter's position toward the WHO. The PLO will make every possible effort to change the U.S. position, he said.

Asked about reports of a U.S.-Soviet peace initiative, Al-Natshah said that the PLO is closely following all political developments between the United States and the Soviet Union. The PLO, he added, is still demanding an international peace conference with the participation of all Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the Middle East crisis.

On the extraordinary Arab summit in Morocco, Al-Natshah expected the summit to adopt resolutions to support the intifadah [uprising] and the Palestinian political campaign; lay down practical solutions to the Lebanese problem; accept Egypt's return to the Arab League and its participation in the summit; and support Iraq clearly and end the state of neither war nor peace between Iraq and Iran.

Al-Natshah expected imminent detente in Syrian-Palestinian relations and said contacts are under way to hold introductory talks before these relations return to normal. He pointed out that the Palestinian leadership has decided to move toward normalizing relations.

'U.S. Pressure' Blamed for PLO WHO Rejection

PM1705152789 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 May 89 p 1

[Muhammad Mahjub Report: "Al-Natshah Tells 'UKAZ: We Have Not Lost, But Have Exposed Washington's Position"]

[Excerpt] Jeddah—Palestinian Ambassador to the Kingdom, Rafiq al-Natshah, has described the WHO annual assembly's decision as clear submission to U.S. threats. In an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ he said that the U.S. position has frustrated many people who had pinned their hopes on a positive U.S. position.

AL-Natshah added that Washington's pressure on the WHO has proved that it is not serious in its dialogue with the PLO.

He said that the Soviet Union's negative vote will not affect PLO relations with it.

AL-Natshah emphasized that all calculations had indicated that the PLO would gain a large number of votes. He said: "We were certain that we would be accepted as WHO members." He attributed the ballot result to U.S. pressure, and said: "We have not lost as a result of that position; rather, we have exposed the U.S. position."

Meanwhile Nabil al-Ramlawi, PLO representative in Geneva, has said that the PLO will approach other international organizations. He also said: "We will insist on admission to all the other international organizations, because it is our right." Al-Ramlawi described the rejection of the PLO request as a "conspiracy." [passage omitted]

PLO Calls for 'Urgent' Meeting With USSR

JN1705163189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 May 89 p 31

[Text] Tunis—The PLO has called for an urgent meeting of the Palestinian-Soviet coordination committee to discuss relations between the two sides in the wake of the Soviet vote in support of postponing the discussion of the PLO's application to the WHO. AL-ANBA' has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat

expressed his failure to understand the Soviet position, particularly since Nabil 'Amr, Palestine's ambassador in Moscow, had asked the Kremlin to help the PLO by voting on its side. Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration, informed 'Amr of his country's support for the PLO and told him that everything the United States said on this issue was blackmail.

AL-ANBA' also learned that the Kremlin informed the Palestinian leadership that the Soviet position at the WHO was a step on the right direction. They added: "Do not consider the WHO director general's proposal a defeat."

The PLO believes that the USSR's basic position at the present time is to avoid any conflict with the United States.

Three socialist countries voted against the proposal to postpone the discussion of the PLO's request to join the WHO: the GDR, Romania, and Cuba.

PLO Issues Statement on Khalid Assassination

JN1705182289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Statement issued by the PLO "on the assassination" of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon; date, place not given]

[Text] The PLO announces to the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation and to the advocates of goodness, justice, and peace in the entire world the death of the martyr of Arabism and Islam, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon and member of the Muslim World League Constitutent Council. His eminence was assassinated by people motivated by rancor and malevolence to perpetuate the sedition and fragmentation in Lebanon, serving the Zionist scheme in which, regrettably, they and some parties in our region are involved.

His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the martyr of Arabism and Islam, was one of the basic pillars of Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arabism. He was a strong voice that always called out against the schemes of division, sectarianism, and fragmentation perpetrated by the Zionist enemy and its allies.

The martyr, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, was always a supporter of our Palestinian people, their just cause, and their heroic struggle to achieve their complete rights. He strongly believed that the Palestine question is the central cause of the Arabs and Muslims everywhere.

His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid was a strong supporter of all our Arab and Islamic causes and of truth and justice in the entire world.

As the PLO and the state and people of Palestine strongly condemn this heinous crime, whose victim was a prominent man among the Lebanese, Arabs, and Muslims, they call on the fraternal Lebanese people to cooperate in order to face the Zionist schemes of liquidation and fragmentation. The PLO and the state and people of Palestine also urge the Arab nation to shoulder its responsibility in protecting sisterly Arab Lebanon from the suspect schemes that are not aimed against Lebanon alone but against the entire Arab nation.

Glory and immortality to the great martyr, His Eminence Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic of Lebanon. Glory and immortality to all the martyrs of our Arab and Islamic nation.

PLO's Ahmad on Shamir Plan, Syria Relations

JN1705200689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 May 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—It was announced yesterday, Monday, in the wake of the PLO Executive Committee's meeting chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and attended by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh; 'Abdallah Hurani; Mahmud Darwish; 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad; Muhammad Milhim; Jawid al-Ghusayn; and Bishop Ilya Khuri that the Palestinian delegation to the emergency Arab summit to be held in Casablanca on 23 May will present two demands. The first calls for implementing the resolutions adopted at the Algiers summit to support the intifadah [uprising] and the second calls for blessing the resolutions adopted by the 19th session of the Palestine National Council.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad said no Arab country has paid its due contributions to support the intifadah. He noted that Vernon Walters, U.S. representative at the United Nations, advised some Arab leaders he visited to freeze the intifadah funds to create appropriate circumstances for dialogue and to show good intentions according to the American viewpoint.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad repeated that the PLO's position is firm despite what he described as inaccurate remarks by some Palestinian officials. He added that the PLO does not oppose the principle of elections, but they must lead to integral and practical steps after the Israeli withdrawal under UN supervision.

The same line was reiterated by Bassam Abu Sharif in a statement to the British Broadcasting Corporation, and by Jamil Hilal, head of the information office, in a statement to REUTER.

When asked about the latest developments in the Algerian mediation between Syria and the PLO, the PLO Executive Committee member said that a meeting will be held in Harare today among the foreign ministers of Palestine, Algeria, and Syria in connection with the meeting of the Nonaligned Coordination Office. During this meeting, a date will be set for the visit to Damascus by a Palestinian delegation. However, the Damascus meeting will not take place before the [Arab League] summit. He noted that the date set previously was not appropriate in light of the emergence of sudden differences, particularly with regard to the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

On the question of whether the PLO has preconditions for holding the Palestinian-Syrian meeting, 'Abd al-Rahim said that the PLO's preconditions are that Syria should not interfere in its internal affairs and should respect the PLO's decisions.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad said that the decision adopted by the WHO to postpone the discussion of the Palestinian membership application is not a failure. He said that this was a compromise agreed on by all parties.

'Source' on Status of Syrian Contacts

PM1805072189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 May 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Syrian-Palestinian Reconciliation Meeting in Damascus To Be Postponed Until After Emergency Arab Summit"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A responsible Palestinian source in Kuwait has said that the anticipated Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation meeting has been postponed until after the emergency Arab summit, which is scheduled to begin in Casablanca 23 May.

The sources said that the Algerian mediators conveyed this request to Syria, which expressed the same wish.

The source added that the Algerian sources have completed arrangements for a Palestinian-Syrian meeting between Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, and Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, to be held in Harare (the Zimbabwean capital) on the sidelines of the nonaligned foreign ministers conference, which begins today.

The source stated that the meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries will make preliminary arrangements for an expanded meeting between the Palestinian and Syrian sides and work toward easing the political atmosphere between the two sides.

The source said that that meeting will be a first indication of how much success has been made toward reconciliation. It will also indicate the prospects for success in the future in terms of normalizing relations, that is, in the expanded meeting between the two sides, to be held in Damascus.

The source indicated that the main criterion of the Harare meeting's success would be the suspension of the hostile media campaigns between the two sides and the end to the escalation which has taken place recently in the in Sidon.

Algeria

Chadian President Hissein Habre Visits Algiers

Arrives 13 May

LD1305135189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpts] At the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, President Hissein Habre of Chad arrived at Houari Boumedienne International Airport in Algiers at around 1140 today on an official visit which will last until 15 May. [passage omitted]

In the VIP lounge, the Chadian president made the following statement to the press:

[Begin Habre recording in French with superimposed Arabic translation] First, I am extremely happy to have the opportunity to visit Algeria and to visit my brother President Chadli Bendjedid. It is an excellent opportunity for me to be able to hold talks with President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian Government on issues of mutual interest because Algeria and Chad are two sisterly countries bound by excellent relations. I also consider the visit to be an opportunity for myself and President Chadli Bendjedid to hold talks on ways to reinforce, deepen, and broaden the relations existing between the two countries and also to examine issues of mutual interest concerning Africa and the world.

I would like to thank, in my own name and on behalf of the Chadian people, the Algerian people for their interest and their respect and for the warm fraternal feelings they have for the Chadian people.

I also thank Algeria for its important role in Africa and the Third World, a role which greatly contributes to assisting peoples deprived of their rights to gain their independence. I am extremely satisfied to be in Algeria today, in this land dear to us all. [end recording]

Discusses Ties With President

LD1405211289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid and President Hissein Habre of Chad held tete-a-tete talks at the Presidency today. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, especialy those concerning Africa.

Earlier, President Habre visited the Martyr's Monument accompanied by the minister of light industries and then visited the War Museum. The Chadian president and the delegation accompanying him listened to a commentary on the various stages of the struggle waged by the Algerian people.

Information Agreement Signed

LD1405212289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] In accordance with the recommendations of the mixed Algerian-Chadian meeting in Ndjamena on 8 October 1989, and in line with the role of information in consolidating friendship between the two peoples, this afternoon at the Information Ministry building an agreement in the information sphere was signed between Algeria and the Chadian Republic. The agreement was signed on the Algerian side by Ali Ammar and on the Chadian side by Adoum Moussa Seif.

The agreement stipulates cooperation between the ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY and the CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY, and between the Algerian daily EL MOUDJAHID and the Chadian daily INFO-CHAD.

An agreement on cooperation between Algerian and Chadian radio was also signed by the directors of radio in the respective country. This agreement includes a number of points aimed at bolstering cooperation between the two radios.

Cooperation Accord Signed

LD1505130889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] An Algerian-Chadian agreement on scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation was signed this afternoon at the El-Mithaq residence in Algeria by Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh Chadian Foreign Minister Sheikh Benamar [name and title as heard]. It provides for cooperation in energy, Saharan agriculture, health, training, and technical assistance.

The agreement, signed on the occasion of the Chadian president's visit to our country, crowns the work of the joint Algerian-Chadian committee meeting last October.

Habre Cited on Talks

LD1505170189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Algerian and Chadian presidents had a final round of political talks in private at the Villa Jenane al-Mithaq this morning. Before his departure the Chadian president made the following statement:

[Begin Hissein Habre recording in French with superimposed Arabic translation] First, I would like to express my satisfaction with this visit to Algeria. The visit falls within the framework of good relations of friendship and cooperation between Chad and Algeria. During this visit, we, President Chadli Bendjedid and myself, personally had wide, rich, and deep talks about various questions of concern to us—questions relating to bilateral relations, African and international problems.

On the bilateral level, we studied in particular the fields of cooperation; all fields of education, scientific and technical cooperation, communications, information, transportation, and agriculture. I can also add all major fields. In this respect agreements were signed which complement and deepen the fields of cooperation which were defined earlier, and particularly during the latest session of the Algerian-Chadian committee.

I would like to add that on the bilateral level, we, President Chadli Bendjedid and myself, wanted to provide the necessary political impetus. I am confident that a new atmosphere will be provided at the level of the concerned ministers and economic partners for the relations between our fraternal countries and peoples. [end recording]

Joint Communique Cited

LD1505204589 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Chad President Hissein Habre left for Chad this morning following a 3-day official visit. An Algerian-Chadian joint communique was published, which says among other things, that the two parties are pleased with the spirit characteristic of bilateral relations. These are based on mutual confidence and reciprocal political will to promote them, so as to respond to the expectations of the Algerian and Chadian peoples in the spirit of solidarity, fraternity, and cooperation which unites them.

In reviewing the international situation, the two parties paid particular attention to the problems confronting the African Continent. They repeated their attachment to the principles and aims of the OAU. The two parties expressed satisfaction with the positive developments in inter-Maghreb relations with the creation of the Union of the Arab Maghreb which is an important milestone on the road to African unity, to which all peoples of the continent aspire.

They agreed to strengthen their joint action with a view to consolidating the relations of solidarity and cooperation between the countries of the Maghreb and the Sahel. Dealing with the Western Sahara situation, the two parties welcomed the efforts made by the current OAU chairman, the UN secretary general, and the OAU secretary general, with the aim of enabling the Saharan people to exercise freely their right to self-determination in conformity with the (?OAU) and UN resolutions.

After examining developments in the conflict between Chad and Libya, the two parties expressed satisfaction with the positive climate prevailing in their relations, which was manifested in the organization of Chad-Libyan meetings in Tripoli as well as Ndjamena.

As regards the evolution of the situation in southern Africa, the two parties are pleased with the establishment of the process which will lead Namibia to independence.

President Habre sent an invitation to President Chadli to visit Chad. The invitation was accepted with pleasure, but the date was not decided.

Concludes Visit, Departs 15 May

LD1505122489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Chadian President Hissein Habre left Algiers this morning after a 3-day official visit.

Chadli Bendjedid, accompanied by a number of high-ranking officials, was at Houari Boumedienne Airport to see him off.

Egypt

Government Rejects Shamir's Election Plan

JN1705181789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1716 GMT 17 May 89

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Cairo has informed Washington of its rejection of Shamir's elections plan. This is not a new Egyptian position; it was Egypt's principled position since the idea of elections was pronounced. This is also what President Mubarak had earlier conveyed to President Bush during their meeting in Washington.

I have learned that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has communicated the Egyptian rejection to the U.S. envoy Dennis Ross because the Israeli plan suggested nothing new. I have also learned that Egypt has expressed its displeasure that all this waiting for Shamir's plan has been nothing but a waste of time.

I have learned that Egypt is now totally ignoring this plan and is urging the United States to proceed with holding an international Middle East peace conference in which the PLO participates.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid conveyed the Egyptian position to the U.S. envoy in specific points. He said the conditions for elections should be known and the plan should be specific vis-a-vis a comprehensive solution. Egypt objected to Shamir's plan on the grounds that it ignored international supervision and considered the Jerusalem Palestinians as Israeli citizens. It even determined the status of Jerusalem in advance as part of Israel.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid summed up Egypt's position in one statement, one phrase when he said: If the elections are part of a comprehensive plan acceptable to the Palestinians and seeking an overall and final solution whose end is known in advance, we will consider it. However, if it is meant for prevarication and gaining time, it is then rejected and doomed to failure.

Mubarak Discusses Summit With Arab Leaders

NC1705195889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held telephone conversations today with Saudi Monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; King Husayn of Jordan; Iraqi President Saddam Husayn; and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman also telephoned President Mubarak.

These contacts between President Husni Mubarak and the Arab leaders dealt with recent regional developments and arrangements to guarantee the success of the forthcoming Arab summit. Egypt will attend the summit and attempt to use it to unify Arab ranks and achieve the pan-Arab interest of the Arab nation's peoples.

During his talk with the Arab leaders, President Mubarak expressed the Egyptian people's appreciation for their supportive position regarding Egypt's resuming membership in Arab summit conferences.

Al-Baz Interviewed on 23 May Summit Attendance

PM1705110289 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 16 May 89 p 15

[Interview with Usama al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, by Sana' al-Sa'id; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Cairo—[Passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] Is it true that Egypt is to be readmitted to the Arab League during the next summit of Arab heads of state scheduled for 23-24 May in Casablanca?

[Al-Baz] Obviously, there are no remaining doubts about Egypt's readmission to the Arab League. The Arab governments and peoples, including Egypt's, are now convinced that the past is buried for good and that the situation and the interests of the Arab nation require the full integration of Egypt's role within the Arab League and its institutions. Nobody any longer challenges Egypt's return to the Arab League, apart from Libya, which expresses reservations.

However, these Libyan reservations cannot obstruct the issue of a resolution by the next Arab summit in favor of Egypt's readmission. We must not forget that the resolution of the 1978 summit of Arab heads of state in Baghdad—following which Egypt's membership in the Arab League was frozen—was also adopted despite opposition and reservations from several Arab states. So the Casablanca summit's decision will be adopted in the same way. I therefore confirm that Egypt will attend the next extraordinary summit of Arab chiefs of state in Casablanca and that it will be readmitted to the Arab League.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your assessment of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza?

[Al-Baz] This proposal will be rejected if elections are an end in themselves or designed to open the way to self-government or administrative autonomy in the occupied territories. If these aims are accepted, attention would be diverted from the attainment of a comprehensive, just, and stable peace in the region and concentrated on marginal issues. So these elections must be set in a clear political context designed to advance the peace process by means of an agreement on convening an international peace conference involving direct negotiations between all the sides involved. If Shamir's proposal did clear the way to such negotiations, we would not oppose it. We demand certain guarantees that will ensure that these elections take place under free, democratic, and correct conditions.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the present level of coordination among Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO on the future of the peace process?

[Al-Baz] There is an excellent and adequate level of coordination both among the three sides and within the broader Arab context. In line with these factors, on his return from the United States President Mubarak reported on the results to the heads of all the Arab states, apart from Syria and Libya, with which we do not yet maintain relations. The Egypt-Jordan-PLO group aims to assume a fundamental role in any negotiations on resolving the Palestinian issue, in agreement with Syria and Lebanon. Syria has not yet joined this coordination group, however, but I hope this can happen. The understanding between Mubarak, King Husayn, and 'Arafat is strong and comprehensive, which means that, no matter what happens, we cannot be taken by surprise. For instance, there were constant consultations with 'Arafat during his visit to Paris.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you believe that the United States and the Soviet Union can reach an understanding on the Middle East?

[Al-Baz] Despite the climate of greater detente that permits a higher level of cooperation between the two superpowers in regional crises, we are still assessing the degree of detente achieved with regard to the Middle East. It seems that the United States still wants to perform a leading role with respect to the Soviet Union and believes that it has a better chance of coordinating relations with the sides involved by influencing their respective positions. However, whatever America's beliefs may be, we say that the Soviet Union must play a role in the peace process, and it is not a precondition that this role must be quantitatively or qualitatively equal.

Equality with the United States must lie in the fact that both roles are active elements corresponding to specific requirements, ensure continuity, and coincide in the

objective of helping the sides involved to achieve a comprehensive and stable peace based on a reconciliation between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples and the solution of all aspects of the Palestinian issue—and especially the political aspect. However, we must not forget or dismiss the positive role played by the EC in the solution of the Mideast crisis, and the same applies to the PRC's role.

[Al-Sa'id] The impression is that the Arab Cooperation Council is a fragile coalition of four states (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and North Yemen) with serious economic crises.

[Al-Baz] This is not true. These countries, like many others, have to tackle economic problems, but they are not experiencing a serious crisis. We created the Council not because we are in a crisis but because it facilitates our development opportunities and represents an experience and a model that can be reproduced throughout the Arab world. The Council aims at the acquisition of advanced technology and increased productivity through each member country's specialization in a specific sector of industry, so that the rule is complementary rather than rivalry.

Initially, we will concentrate on civilian industry, which permits direct results in the development process. Subsequently, in the years ahead, there will be a chance of cooperating also in the military industries. In any case, the priority must be civilian industry. We do not want to create a political bloc or a military axis. In the political and military field we feel bound by the constitution of the Arab League and the Arab mutual defense treaty.

New U.S. Lease Offer Reportedly Proposed

JN1705142889 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 Apr 89 p 1

[By the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Diplomatic quarters in Cairo have said that the United States submitted a new offer during President Mubarak's recent visit to Washington seeking to achieve the objectives of the old request for a military base in Ra's Banas. The offer provides for leasing a Red Sea area north of the old location [Ra's Banas base] on the pretext of using it for investment purposes for 50 years in return for $2 billion per year. The offer also stipulates that part of Egypt's civil and military debts will be waived. These debts are estimated in a classified report issued by the Cairo office of the U.S. Agency for International Development to be $20 billion—a figure different from old estimates.

The diplomatic quarters said that the new proposal replaces the old Ra's Banas project, which was rejected by Egypt, and added that Washington seeks to establish two bases, a land base and a naval one, in the area of the requested lease.

Paper Cited on U.S. Release of Frozen Funds

NC1305212289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has disclosed that an agreement has been reached between Egypt and the United States on releasing $230 million, frozen in the U.S. Treasury by a congressional decision adding that a decision by the United States to release the funds will be issued at the end of next week.

In tomorrow's edition, the paper says that it has been agreed to increase the amount allocated to the import of commodities in the U.S. aid program from $200 million annually to $300 million. [passage omitted]

The paper points out that, as part of a reform program, the customs dollar will be unified in the next few days in implementation of the Egyptian policy, which aims to gradually fix the exchange rate provided that this measure does not have a negative effect on basic commodities and on people with limited incomes.

In light of the decision to unify the exchange rate of the customs dollar, now worth approximately 190 piasters, the customs tariff on certain basic and intermediate commodities which concern those with limited incomes, is expected to be reviewed in order to avoid any price increase.

It is recalled that the implementation of the decision to increase the interest rate on deposits and loans, which was made the day before yesterday and goes into effect next Tuesday, falls within the context of the Egyptian economic reform program.

Bahraini Amir Begins Official Visit to Cairo

Arrives 16 May

NC1605100889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0921 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, arrived in Cairo airport at 1210 today at the beginning of a 3-day official visit to Cairo.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a number of senior officials and diplomats were at the airport to welcome the great guest to Egypt.

Meets With Mubarak 17 May

NC1705113489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—During a closed meeting today, President Husni Mubarak and Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, discussed a number of topics which concern the Arab nation.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the closed meeting was followed by an expanded session cochaired by the two leaders and attended by the two countries' delegations. Discussions focused on the importance of developing and bolstering bilateral relations. Current efforts to establish peace in the Gulf region and recent Iraqi initiatives in this field were also discussed.

Al-Sharif added that the expanded session discussed recent deveopments in the Palestinian issue, as well as the various aspects of the Lebanese problem. [passage omitted]

He also noted that President Mubarak held a meeting after the session with the chief editors of Bahraini newspapers, the directors of the GULF NEWS AGENCY, and the directors of Bahraini radio and television, who are accompanying His Highness Shaykh 'Isa. The president replied to several questions dealing with various subjects, including the emergency Arab summit due to be held in Morocco next week, Al-Sharif said. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Views Summit

NC1705193989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Ismailia, 17 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed hope that the Arabs will succeed in surmounting their differences and working for the good of their people. His excellency said: I hope that the Arab atmosphere will be one full of amity, fraternity, and cooperation. I hope we will forget the divisions. We want to use our capabilities for the sake of our Arab nation and the good of our people who need such efforts.

This came in remarks which President Mubarak made today to the chief editors of Bahraini newspapers, WAKH, and the media delegation which is covering the visit of His Highness Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah of Bahrain to Egypt.

During a tour of Ismailia which he and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa made today, President Mubarak affirmed that through its solidarity the Arab nation can deal with issues and resolve them in the way it deems appropriate. President Mubarak added: As an Arab nation we are placing our hands and efforts together and cooperating to find a solution for any issue. If we cooperate, we can compel the other party to go along with us.

Speaking to the WAKH and Bahraini newspaper chief editors and correspondents of Bahraini radio and television about the talks he had with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa, President Mubarak said: We discussed bilateral ties and the scope of cooperation between the two countries. We also discussed all the current issues, including Lebanon and the Palestinian question.

President Mubarak expressed appreciation for his Highness Shaykh 'Isa and for the fraternal Bahraini people. He said: I have known His Highness Shaykh 'Isa since 1975.

On Egyptian-Bahraini relations, the president said that these relations need no explanation or clarification since they are always clear. He added: They are very good relations. Our cooperation is excellent. There are constant contacts between us, which never cease and are more extensive than the citizens imagine.

Alluding to the Lebanese problem, President Mubarak said that the Arab nation is capable of solving this problem. He added: We need neither Europe nor America, neither an Eastern state nor a Western state to solve this problem for us. My viewpoint on this problem has not changed although it might anger some people: Keep your hands off Lebanon. He maintained that when the Lebanese parties sit around the negotiating table they will be able to solve the dispute.

Asked if he had received an official invitation to attend the Arab emergency summit in Casablanca, the president said: His Majesty King Hassan II gave me this invitation over the telephone last night.

In response to a question about cooperation and coordination between the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and Arab Maghreb Union, President Mubarak said that the cooperation councils include countries which have much in common—although all the Arab states have a lot in common. He added that these councils can cooperate with each other very closely if all the countries concerned belong to the Arab League.

Asked about the Egyptian people's feelings about Egypt's return to the Arab League, President Mubarak stated: Their feelings are the feelings of every Arab, because all Arabs are in the same boat. He said it is not right that we should be kept apart. Egypt's return to the Arab League is in the best interest of Egypt and the best interest of the Arab nation.

Asked when he would visit Bahrain, President Mubarak said: Bahrain is a friendly state cherished by all of us, and I hope, God willing, to go there in the near future.

Describes Talks as 'Frank'

NC1805040589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has described his talks with President Husni Mubarak

today as extremely frank and marked by understanding and clarity with respect to all topics discussed. He asserted that views and stands were identical in all fields.

During a meeting tonight with Egyptian chief editors, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa said Egypt is a strength in the Arab world and that it is dear to all. He added: We wish Egypt more progress and prosperity. Egypt is indispensable to us, and its progress means progress for the entire Arab nation.

His highness the amir said that the relations between Egypt and his country are like ties within one country. He expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome he was accorded by President Mubarak and the Egyptian people. [passage omitted]

His highness asserted that Arab consensus could resolve any Arab differences. He said: We can overcome our disagreements through dialogue, understanding, and frankness.

Shaykh 'Isa said that the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca will address all outstanding Arab issues. He expressed the hope that the Arabs will unify their stand and reach agreement in an atmosphere of confidence and frankness.

The amir stated: Although Arab differences are, regrettably, many, we can resolve everything through understanding and dialogue, God willing. The Arabs would become a considerable force if they were to present a united front. Shaykh 'Isa warned that the enemy exploits division and fragmentation to penetrate our Arab ranks.

His highness said that the Palestinian issue is a priority item on the agenda of the forthcoming summit in Casablanca. He stressed that by meeting and reaching an understanding the Arab leaders can overcome difficulties, if there is good will.

Referring to the question of Lebanon, Shaykh 'Isa stressed that this problem can be resolved by the Lebanese people only. He said that foreign forces must leave Lebanon so that the Lebanese people may determine their fate by themselves. His highness added: I believe that every country should solve its own problems and determine its own fate. We must help the Lebanese people to do so.

Answering a question on Libya's doubts about the usefulness of convening the extraordinary summit in Casablanca, his highness declared: I have, regrettably, heard of this. We wish that Libya would attend every Arab meeting and that we could adopt a united stand, because we would then become a force that would be difficult to break.

Regarding Bahrain's differences with some of its neighbors, Shaykh 'Isa said that all differences could be resolved. Any disagreements which might occur among members of the same family can be resolved through understanding and frankness, God willing, he stated.

Final Talks Held 18 May

NC1805101189 Cairo MENA in English 0740 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Cairo, May 18 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a tete-a-tete session of talks this morning at Al-Qubbah Republican Palace with Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prior to the amir's departure from here today.

News Conference Held

NC1805094389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stressed that all Arab countries want peace, which is something precious. He said that the united Arab position is something natural.

These remarks were part of the statements made by President Mubarak following the official departure ceremonies held this morning for Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Responding to a question on the extraordinary Arab summit, President Husni Mubarak said: The united Arab position is the normal thing which we have gotten used to since the establishment of the Arab League, a long time ago. The scattered Arab situation was an unnatural phenomenon and unreal. His excellency added: When the Arabs act with one hand and speak with once voice, then they have weight and influence in international circles. We, as Arabs, have interests, and it is in our interest to act with one hand, to be one power and one voice, and not be divided by anything.

Replying to a question on the effect of this position on the peace process, President Mubarak said: All the Arab countries want peace and everyone is thinking only of peace. We have talked about peace hundreds of times and I believe that His Highness Shaykh 'Isa shares this view with me. Peace is something precious, as I have said many times in the past. Life without peace will be a hard one in which the family loses its security.

Answering a question on Egypt's position on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza and on whether he has reservations about them, President Husni Mubarak said: We are studying the matter. If the Palestinians believe that this is in their interest, then we welcome it. We have some reservations but we do not reject the matter.

Responding to another question on whether proposals on the peace process will be submitted to the upcoming Arab summit by the Arab Cooperation Council and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], President Mubarak said: Ask Shaykh 'Isa.

Commenting on this, Shaykh 'Isa said: The GCC complements the councils and groupings now present. The GCC welcomes any councils which are, just as President Mubarak has said, in the interest of the Arab nation, its reunion, and the unity of its position. I do not disagree with his excellency the president and I do agree with all he has said and has given. Egypt is dear to all and has a role in the Arab world.

Concludes Visit, Departs 18 May

NC1805102389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit to Egypt.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak headed the group which saw Shaykh 'Isa off and which included Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. President Mubarak embraced the distinguished guest and the members of the delegation accompanying him at the stairs to the plane.

Foreign Minister on Meeting With U.S. Envoy

NC1505164389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that during his meeting today with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, the latter briefed him on the talks which he conducted in Israel prior to his visit to Cairo.

'Abd al-Majid added that the U.S. envoy also briefed him on the U.S. reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal for elections in the occupied territories and the results of the recent meetings between the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that he does not currently have any comment to make on the proposals which he received today.

He added that he will be briefed tomorrow, Tuesday, on the Soviet viewpoint on this matter during his meeting with the Soviet ambassador to Cairo.

'Abd al-Majid on Lebanon, Summit, Shamir Plan

NC1705180289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed hope that the Arab six-man committee charged with resolving the Lebanese crisis will succeed in containing the crisis. He pointed out that the Arab brothers must find a solution so that Lebanon may achieve unity, stability, and security.

In an interview with the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR in its Friday edition, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt was not without a role at any stage in this regard despite the fact that it did not participate in the Arab League meetings. He noted that the Arab issues, both the Lebanese issue and other Arab issues, have always occupied Egypt.

Concerning Egypt's participation in the forthcoming extraordinary Arab summit, Dr 'Abd al-Majid told the magazine that the spirit shown by Morocco's King Hassan II, who will host the summit, and by all Arab presidents and kings certainly satisfies and relieves us. Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that this spirit demonstrates the Arab leaders' appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's wise policy which has sought to bolster Arab solidarity and surmount difficulties and disputes ever since Mubarak assumed leadership.

On whether President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad might hold a meeting, as has been reported, in order to end their differences, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said: Naturally, this might happen if President al-Asad is present in Casablanca. A similar meeting between the two presidents took place in Kuwait. They have a strong relationship and friendship.

On the Palestinian issue, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister remarked that the road is currently paved to embark on negotiations to find a peaceful settelment to the Palestinian issue. He added that the Soviet-U.S. understanding will be effective in making the concerned parties hold direct negotiations under the aegis of an international peace conference. He noted that this understanding will effect the process related to the issuance of guarantees for the various parties and the Palestinian people's full acquisition of their national legitimate rights.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid noted that the Middle East question is now at the forefront of issues discussed by the superpowers. This is a new development in the sphere of U.S.-Soviet relations; the superpowers had previously focused on disarmament issues. 'Abd al-Majid asserted that Egypt desires to make positive contributions in order to promote the peace process.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's peace and elections initiative, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid declared that so far as elections as a democratic principle are concerned, no one can reject them. However, he asked: Who can imagine the possibility of holding free and democratic elections under a military occupation that daily practices the most severe acts of repression against the Palestinian people?

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid noted that there should be a clearly delineated plan whose end is known well in advance. He declared: If the elections are part of a comprehensive plan acceptable to the Palestinians, we will welcome it; but if it is a mere idea intended to be an evasive tactic to gain time, it is rejected and bound to fail.

Soviet Envoy Continues Talks With 'Abd al-Majid

NC1705144189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Gennadiy Zhuravlev. The two men resumed their review of the latest developments in the Middle East situation and the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet talks held recently in Moscow. 'Abd al-Majid and the Soviet ambassador also discussed the Soviet assessment of these talks and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Sheavrdnadze's proposal to the United States concerning a quadripartite meeting to be attended by U.S., Soviet, Palestinian, and Israeli representatives.

Comments on Talks, Summit

NC1705164289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, after meeting today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that he expects the forthcoming Arab summit to discuss the necessary means to achieve peace in the Middle East as it has become evident that the Middle East problem cannot be resolved through military means.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent proposals, the Soviet ambassador affirmed that the PLO has the final say on this matter.

Regarding the U.S.-Soviet talks held in Moscow recently, the Soviet envoy said that it is natural for the two sides to agree and disagree over political issues. However, there is some similarity in the viewpoints, as the Americans now do not reject the idea of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

The Soviet ambassador added that his talks with Dr 'Abd al-Majid dealt with the relations between Egypt and the USSR and the means to bolster them in various areas. The talks also touched on the outcome of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee meetings held recently in Cairo.

Cairo 'Sources' on Peace Process, Soviet Plan

PM1705154389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sources in Cairo Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Egypt and Jordan Approve Moscow's Proposal on Quadripartite Meeting"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that Egypt and Jordan have approved the new Soviet proposals for giving impetus to the peace efforts in the Middle East and holding a quadripartite meeting comprising the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, and the PLO.

The sources said that during their recent meeting in Moscow Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze informed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that these proposals were submitted to the Arab parties concerned with the conflict—especially Egypt and Jordan—during the consultations conducted by the Soviet Union, that they approved them, and that the United States must persuade Israel to accept them.

The sources pointed out that while Baker voiced U.S. reservations about these proposals, he asked the Soviet side to seek to persuade the PLO to accept the plan to hold elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received a comprehensive report from its ambassador in Moscow on the results of the talks between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state, especially vis-a-vis the Middle East problem. The report hinted at the continuation of the U.S.-Soviet disagreement over the ideas proposed for a settlement and the convening of the international conference, especially as the U.S. side did not present any new proposals during the meeting, except the positive position expressed by the U.S. secretary of state and adopted by the U.S. Administration of President Bush regarding Moscow's participation in the peace process.

Meanwhile, diplomatic reports in Cairo indicate that the task of the U.S. delegation headed by Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. State Department's Policy Planning Staff, which begins its visit to Cairo and Tel Aviv today, will include determining the Israeli Government's position on involving the people of occupied Jerusalem in the peace process, participation in the elections, international supervision of the elections, and linking the transitional period with the final form of a settlement.

Israel Reportedly Discusses Reactor With FRG

JN1705141089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 May 89 p 1

[By 'Adil Sabri]

[Text] Israel is currently holding secret talks with a group of FRG experts and firms specialized in designing and installing nuclear reactors. The purpose of the talks is to set up an Israeli nuclear reactor in the Shatfa [placename as published] area, about 30 km from the Egyptian border, and help Israel use small reactors to generate nuclear power. During its negotiations with the German side, Israel stressed that Israeli experts should participate in designing and developing nuclear reactors to produce electricity in the early nineties. Israel has also started to finalize its plans to set up the nuclear reactor, which will be manufactured locally with the help of German experts and will use saturated uranium.

Israel had earlier refused to sign the international agreement on the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. It also rejected any supervision over its nuclear installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives for Brief Visit

NC1405102789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1001 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali arrived in Cairo at noon today on a visit lasting a few hours. While here, he will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on bolstering bilateral ties.

Comments on Summit

NC1405123389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], who is currently on a brief visit of several hours to Cairo on his way to Rome. The latest developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations and ways of promoting them were discussed during the meeting.

In a statement following the meeting, Al-Dali said he had discussed with Dr 'Abd al-Majid topics related to Arab world developments, the preparations for the emergency summit in Morocco, and ways to ensure the success of this summit—so that it can herald a new beginning of Arab common action.

The PDRY minister affirmed that the Arab states do not need formalities in order for Egypt to attend the emergency summit, because Egypt's presence is of the utmost importance. Egypt, he added, must be present at the summit.

The PDRY foreign minister expressed his conviction that with Egypt's return to its fold, the Arab League will play an effective and positive role in the coming stage. He added that Egypt is an inseparable part of the Arab world and, consequently, its readmission into the Arab League is a natural thing.

Departs for Rome

NC1405165189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1514 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], left here this evening for Rome after a visit of several hours to Egypt. While in Cairo, Al-Dali met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Arrives on 1-Day Visit

NC1305181089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Nepalese minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 1-day visit to Egypt. After this visit he will leave for Harare to attend the meetings of the nonaligned countries' foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is scheduled to meet with the Nepalese official tomorrow. The talks will deal with bilateral relations in all fields and the means of boosting them as well as the coordination of the two countries' positions before the meetings of the nonaligned countries' foreign ministers. The Nepalese foreign minister will also meet with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC1405085189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0826 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister met with Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Nepalese minister of foreign affairs this morning. They discussed developments in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian issue. They also discussed the coordination of positions between Egypt and Nepal at the nonaligned summit conference slated to convene in the SFRY in September in order to enhance the Nonaligned Movement and preserve its cherished goals and principles.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also received the Nepalese minister this morning. They discussed bilateral ties and issues of common concern.

Departs for Athens

NC1405165589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya left Cairo this evening for Athens on his way to Harare following a 1-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Upadhyaya said he had discussed developments in the Middle East with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The talks also dealt with coordinating the two friendly countries' positions during the nonaligned conference to be held in Harare. He noted that he had found considerable understanding on the part of the Egyptian officials during his talks with them. He praised Egypt's leading role in the Middle East, particularly at the current stage.

Proposal Linked to Abu Ghazalah's Dismissal

JN1705133389 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned that the relief of Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah of his post within the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense was preceded by some problematic issues, including his proposal calling for giving the Armed Forces a special status within the Egyptian political system under which:

—The Armed Forces' budget would have been separated from the state's general budget;
—A military comptrollership system would have been established to supervise the expenditure of the Armed Forces;
—A higher council for military affairs to be headed by a vice president would have been formed. Such a council would have managed the affairs of the Armed Forces.

All of these proposals were rejected when they were forwarded.

Libya

JANA: Kuwait Says Arab Summit Not Needed

LD1705104289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 17 May (JANA)—A telephone conversation has taken place between the brother leader of the revolution and the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. JANA has learned that in the course of this telephone conversation it was established that Kuwait is not convinced that there is a need to convene an emergency Arab summit, and Kuwait does not know why the Arabs should meet in Casablanca. Therefore, Kuwait is consulting the other Arab countries in this connection. [passage omitted]

Opposition to Egypt's Return Expected

PM1705135589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 May 89 pp 1,2

[Talhah Jibril report: "Libya Expected To Participate in Summit Through Its Foreign Minister"]

[Excerpts] Rabat, Cairo, Baghdad (AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau, Agencies)—Through a telephone contact from Rabat, Libyan sources in Tripoli informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the question of Libya's participation in the emergency Arab summit to be held in Casablanca on 23 May has still not been settled. But the sources described the talks between King Hassan II of Morocco and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as "positive."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Libyan Secretary for Foreign Liaison (foreign minister) 'Azzuz Jadallah al-Talhi will visit Tunis to meet with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to discuss the emergency summit issue.

Diplomatic sources expect Libya to participate in the summit through a delegation headed by a Libyan official, probably the secretary for foreign liaison. And if that takes place, Libya will voice its reservation about Egypt's return to the Arab League at the summit.

In the same context, Libyan Secretary [ambassador] in Rabat Muhammad Qasim al-Zuwwi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he had no information on the subject of Libya's participation in the emergency summit.

He added that that issue was discussed by the Moroccan monarch and leader Al-Qadhdhafi at their closed meeting, indicating that he had received nothing specific from Tripoli on that matter as of that moment. [passage omitted]

In the same context, Egyptian Ambassador in Rabat Dr Muhammad Munir Zahran told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he did not receive an invitation to attend the Moroccan monarch's meeting with the Arab ambassadors, held last week. [passage omitted]

West Beirut sources ruled out the possibility of [head of the military government] 'Awn's going to Casablanca, and confirmed that Syria and Dr Salim al-Huss' government categorically oppose "any step likely to portray the 'Awn government as the only government in the country." They also said that if 'Awn decides to go to Casablanca, the Al-Huss government will also send a delegation.

YAR President Phones Al-Qadhdhafi on Summit

LD1805084489 Tripoli JANA in English 1747 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Ma' 17 [17 May] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. 'Ali A. Salih, president of Yemen Arab Republic has made a telephone contact with the leader of revolution stressing that he is not convinced on the necessity of holding an emergency Arab summit on the account of the absence of any question justifying the convening of (the summit).

Al-Qadhdhafi Greets Sino-Soviet Summit

LD1805122789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 18 May—The brother leader of the revolution has sent a telegram to the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and to the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping on the occasion of their recent meeting.

The meeting that brought you together strengthens the socialist camp and boosts its efficient role in the world. This meeting also reinforces the position of the progressive forces in the world in confronting imperialism. This is the right road to facing up to imperialism and to bolstering progressive forces against all challenges.

Recent division in the socialist camp, particularly between China and the Soviet Union, benefitted only imperialism which was able to infiltrate the positions of the socialist forces.

At a time when we laud your determination to mend this division, we affirm the importance of this historic action for the progress and the victory of the socialist camp.

Sudan

Energy Minister Interviewed on War, Resources

PM1605090989 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 12 May 89 pp 33, 34

[Interview with Dr Bashir 'Umar Fadlallah, Sudanese energy and export minister and assistant secretary general of the Ummah Party, by unidentified AL-HAWADITH correspondent; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Is the Sudanese peace march continuing?

[Fadlallah] Peace is our option for the sake of achieving national unity and entering peace negotiations among the various Sudanese parties and organizations within the framework of the national constitutional conference. We know that the road to peace is difficult and requires both patience and self-control. But the alternative to peace can only be disaster—something we are trying to avoid. And that is neither surrender nor indifference, but, rather, a confirmation of the government's option, namely, to enter peace negotiations seriously, truthfully, and sincerely.

Peace has side effects and war has destructive effects. We have chosen the road of peace regardless of all its sensitivities and costs! It has indeed been the option of successive governments over the past 3 years. Major efforts have been exerted to secure a peaceful settlement to the war in the south. That war is not an internal war, as many like to describe it. There is foreign influence which has delayed beneficial solutions.

The present government is working on internal moves within Sudan's parties, organizations, and groups with a view to preparing for the national constitutional conference. At the same time it is making foreign moves to explain the new government's position on the peace option and its approval of it. Both East and West have some involvement in the war in the south; so have the World Council of Churches and world communist unions. It is described as a war between Islam and Christianity, but it is not. We know that it is a slogan being used to incite sedition among the sons of one country.

It is also described as a war between Arabs and blacks, but it is not. It is a war whose causes are said to be economic injustice and unfair distribution of wealth—which is true to some extent, because the south is relatively backward in comparison with the other, northern areas. Some other areas are also backward in comparison with northern areas. But one of the reasons for that economic backwardness is the war itself. Had there been security and stability the huge agricultural, water, and mineral resources available would have been utilized in that dear part of the homeland.

What is important is that the new government under Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has started with a clear approach; namely, a commitment to the peace process—and has actually made headway in this regard, both confidently and effectively. It has taken practical measures to secure a formula acceptable to both parties via the so-called Sudanese peace agreement which the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] signed with the [Garang] movement last November. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] There is another difficult problem, that is the debt problem. What have your talks with the IMF achieved, and are the terms which it imposes on Sudan the cause of the various economic crises and high cost of living?

[Fadlallah] It would be better to address the question to my colleague and brother the finance minister, who can give a detailed answer, as he held a dialogue with the IMF recently in a bid to break the siege of Sudan, if such a phrase can be used, and to benefit from the resources of

the IMF itself and of its participant states. This is in the knowledge that Sudan owes the IMF huge sums of money which Sudan, on many occasions, has pointed out that it is unable to pay.

Some time ago the [World] Bank called on the creditor states, within the framework of the rebuilding and development plan, to rebuild the areas and amenities destroyed by floods last August and September. These states promised to pay a sum of $400 million, and the World Bank board of directors is currently looking into the matter. The states' contributions to that sum will assume the form of grants. As for the bank's contribution, it will be in the form of loans. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the new oil discoveries in Sudan?

[Fadlallah] As you know, the war in the South has affected the oil exploration which started in mid-eighties in the areas located in the far south of the north and in the far north of the south, known as the contact areas. But the Sudanese Government is inviting and encouraging international companies to explore for oil and conduct economic feasibility studies on the various mineral resources, including crude oil and gas.

And here I would like to confirm that many oil discoveries will be announced shortly by the U.S. Chevron company, currently exploring for oil in south Kurdufan, as well as the U.S. Sun Oil company, now exploring for oil in the Al-Jazirah area in central Sudan. All indications show that they are major commercial discoveries. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Interviewed on Gulf Issues

JN1705135989 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 May 89 p 8

[By Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] When one visits Bahrain, one can't miss the fast pace at which development in every aspect is taking place in this country. As usual, I found myself here surrounded with people of advanced political thought that may not provide hard information itself as much it opened horizons for the thought. At this important juncture of Arab history, when we are awaiting an important Arab summit, and have recently noticed the formation of Arab alliances, it was indeed the proper time to visit the Prime Minister of Bahrain, Shaykh to Khalifah ibn Salman to inquire about details on the future. I put before him all that I had in mind and as usual he answered with candour. He made honest proposals he saw necessary for the future of the Gulf and the Arab world as a whole.

Shaykh Khalifah bears for his country, Bahrain, great feelings of affection. He believes that his country will be the window of the whole region to the outside world.

Q: Your Highness, how do you see the future of the Gulf economy?

A: The smell of change is strong now. Every one can smell it. But it is important that these changes emerge in a comfortable political atmosphere in the Gulf. We in the Gulf have several political issues. Some of them have been solved, some others are still out-standing and are left to time and tensions erupt from time to time on some others. Solutions in one way or the other must be available for the last type of issues, in order for governments of this region to be able to devote full time for economic issues and more accurately for development plans.

In this respect one thing remains, which is the military fear which usually arises with increasing tensions. This is economically very expensive to any of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, with the exception of course of the military co-ordination between the GCC states for defensive purposes.

While calling for solutions to all outstanding issues, we also want that military fear should not cost. [sentence as published] We do not want it to be a pressing, disturbing factor hanging over our heads. We, inside the Gulf houses, should solve our outstanding problems, or at least leave them to time and forget that we have any problems until suitable conditions prevail and we are ready to face and settle them.

Q: But Your Highness, according [to] latest news reports Bahrain has asked for arms from Washington?

A: Yes we have asked for arms. As I have said before money should preferably be spent on development needs. It is the military fear that is consuming a major part of our income, at a time when this money could be an important service in development projects.

Q: Your Highness, back to the first question, what are your predictions for the Gulf economy? Why do you say so?

A: The economic situations in the region has greatly improved from what it was during the Gulf war. Now after the war has stopped, things have improved, including an improvement in oil prices. Added to this improvement in the world economy reflects itself on our economies. Through these positive indications, the Gulf countries, particularly the GCC states, could benefit after the state of recession and stagnation has disappeared. Governments and individuals have suffered greatly. We now feel that the situation is better, and economic activities can achieve its goals towards achieving more prosperity.

Q: Your Highness, could you elaborate further on this point. How should the economies perform their roles now that the recession is over. Should everything depend on governments or on the private sector?

A: The role at this stage is the role of individuals, the private sector. The opportunity before them is great. Let's admit that the private sector was greatly affected during the stage where there was no trust. It was not possible for us to ask miracles from them. The private sector, under the circumstances that it passed through have their own calculations. After the removal of adverse factors, the private sector is required to move more effectively and utilise the opportunities available to them.

We in the GCC states, should arrive at a kind of economic coordination among ourselves and make arrangements to protect our establishments from competition by providing it a monopoly status, if necessary. This is because they are establishments owned by individuals, particularly the shareholding companies. Take for example, Gulf Air. I have always wished it had no competition and that any competitor should enter as a partner with it in order to control the markets and thus create better business.

I have said and I repeat that private establishments should move and get out of its lazy stage when there was no stability in the region. The chance now is great. There are many opportunities available, particularly if the GCC states succeeded in reaching economic coordination among themselves like starting joint ventures after studying the size of markets and export possibilities.

Q: Your Highness, how do you in Bahrain determine the resources of your economy?

A: Naturally, we are not an oil country, like other GCC states. We mainly depend upon services and partly on oil revenues. In addition to this, we are now developing the tourism industry. On the other hand, within alliances like that of the GCC, the situations of the weaker partner are usually considered. The position of Luxembourg in the EEC is ample evidence. Luxembourg is a small country, with limited resources, but it benefits from being a member in the EEC. Similarly, Bahrain can greatly benefit from being a member in the GCC, if there is a desire for that. How? By setting up important projects in Bahrain which should be at a level to supply the whole GCC, like industrial projects, and also by benefitting from Bahrain being a tourist centre.

During my many travels abroad, I always compared Bahrain with other important tourist centres. During one vacation in an Indian Ocean island, I asked myself why Bahrain can't be like that island? Bahrain has a similar atmosphere and climate, has the same beaches. But besides that, Bahrain is nearer, our security situations are better and have other additional advantages that this particular island did not have. Thus is spite of the fact that all factors are in Bahrain's favour, the income generated from tourism in that island, is higher. I believe that Bahrain should be similar to that island. Why can't Bahrain with its touristic features, become like this island?

I have instructed the government body to speed up utilising tourist features in Bahrain. The important thing which remains is the participation of the private sector. If the touristic movement in Bahrain reaches the stage I am thinking of, our income from tourism will be high and combine very effectively with our budget.

Q: On the tourism issue, there are many people complaining that it is difficult to get a visa to Bahrain. Are you planning to allow all expatriates in other Gulf states, Arab and foreigners, enjoying legal residence permits in their countries of stay, enter Bahrain without the need to obtain a visa?

A: Yes, we will allow them. We have already issued such a decision, but for certain reasons, the implementation of the decision was delayed for some time. But now I have instructed the concerned authorities to allow all expatriates in other GCC member states with legal residence permits, to enter Bahrain. These visitors will be provided with seven-day visas at the airport and can be renewed by the hotels they stay in. We will issue such instructions in official decisions and will announce it to all.

We know that many of the expatriates working in the Gulf would like to visit Bahrain and stay for some time. I believe if we succeed in implementing the measures we are planning, things will become very easy for them to visit us and we will also increase the activity of the hotel industry which will also increase the economic activity in the country and subsequently result in strengthening Bahrain as a financial centre in the region.

What is important here is not to mix our political concerns and the necessity to improve our economies. The linking of the interests of our countries through a land network (establishing causeways and bridges), would facilitate the speedy transfer between our countries.

It's enough to know how extensive the transportation movement between European countries is to see the effect of such a factor on us. We should know that these European countries have had border problems for hundreds of years but have suspended them and prevented them from becoming a factor to instigate wars.

Q: Your Highness, do you expect financial aid from other GCC members, because Bahrain is the weaker partner in the GCC?

A: We were receiving aid in the past. But we are not the kind of people who insist on continuous aid. When we discovered that the economic situation in the GCC states were difficult, we found that it was not possible to ask for aid. But this is not the main issue. The main issue is co-operation, which is the name of our council.

When we create co-operation among ourselves and establish industrial projects, it will supply the same results as financial aid.

Moreover, if Bahrain's tourism is activated and is used as "a lung for the whole region" things will be at their best. This is especially so when transportation and communication means are available and our people possess the same social nature.

Q: But there are some joint ventures and other economic projects between the GCC that got stuck because of simple reasons and motivations?

A: Yes, this happens. The interlinkage of GCC member-states in terms of national interests and making the national markets open to GCC citizens and activities could cause hindrance when they run against the interests of the individual or that of a small group of any GCC member. It is my belief that this is the most undesirable result, as the interests of a small group of citizens should not get in the way of national interests. As I mentioned earlier, when we disagree about something, it should not affect the nature of our relations and feelings for one another. There are so many issues that time can sort out, however the interlinkage of national interests should not stop or be affected by difficult issues.

I wish here to emphasise that we have to move forward. Both establishments and individuals must perform their duties on GCC national land. This will require co-ordination based on market demand.

This will also encourage the establishment of industries commensurate in volume with the local market demand. So, for instance, if a certain industry is set up in say Bahrain, there would be no need for a similar industry

somewhere else if the production could meet the demand at the GCC level. This goes for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other GCC members, whereby no industrial duplication would be possible and all industries available would cater to the demands of other national markets.

What we aspire to attain is self-sufficiency in the area at the economic level whereby no country would suffer from security instability due to an economic difficulty.

Q: Your Highness... we are speaking about the Arab Co-operation Council set up recently...

A: Let there be more such councils. However they will remain different in their nature from that of the GCC. This is so as the GCC... enjoys... numerous, privileges, the national legislature has remained intact for many years now, traditions have successfully survived all hazards, the social texture of the peoples in the area is homogeneous and they all share a more or less satisfactory economic situation. Nevertheless, the development of such Arab entities is a positive thing that would eventually yield good results and perform well in the political arena. We therefore feel it is necessarey to establish clear-cut channels for co-ordination and co-operation with these entities.

Q: What are your expectations about the extraordinary Arab summit meeting due to be held in Morocco later this month?

A: There are many positive aspects for the proposed Arab summit, topped by Egypt's return to take part in the activities of the Arab body, a thing we have always been calling for. Egypt's absence from Arab summits is abnormal. Among other positive factors for the summit, is the availability of an Arab consensus to end the blood-shed in Lebanon, which has become a cause of shame and must be stopped. There is also the Palestinian cause which has been strengthened by the intifadah [uprising]. It is currently leaving many positive changes that are welcomed by the world. Such changes need a green light from the Arab countries.

There is the advantage of the direct meeting between the Arab leaders. Direct meetings usually melt the ice accumulated in bilateral relations between nations. There is quite some ice on the relations between Arab countries. These are some of the positive factors for the summit. But these positive factors could still be more if the summit meeting is considered open in order to discuss all the problems and obstacles facing the Arab nations, some of which have almost caused wars between Arab countries. We indeed want the summit to be open to all the Arab problems and concerns to be discussed and settled.

It is no more possible to hide disputes between countries through diplomatic decoration.

Everything is clear as crystal. Whenever any incident is created we know exactly who made it, who stood behind it and also who will benefit from it.

Q: How would the Lebanese misery end?

A: The Lebanese crisis must end in order to avoid the influx of more parties involved in the fighting and in order to avoid a full scale development of an Arab-Arab war. We are mistaken if we say that the Arab world does not know the solution to the crisis and is incapable of ending the strife. It is important that these solutions are frankly expressed in the Arab summit. We should avoid mincing words with each other on the pertinent issues. There is bloodshed in a small country. The size and quantity of fire used in it is more than its actual size and its capacity to face.

Q: Your Highness, do you think that the Iraq-Iran war can still resume or has it ended forever?

A: The war between Iraq and Iran has ended and no one is interested in its resumption. Both Iran and Iraq have suffered a lot from the war with the difference that Iraq showed courage in defending its territories. Many still remember that; especially the vast military operations through which Iraq restored the Faw. These people now look in admiration to the success of the Iraqi military school.

The main issue here is that the war is a hated issue. The Iranian people themselves must have hated it, and do not want to see it return once more. Moreover, through the happenings in the world and according to what we know, it has been proved that Iran did not get the weapons it wanted, and is certainly facing difficulties in securing it. Even if we suppose Iran got the weapons it wanted, it will still take a very long time for training and thus I personally rule out the resumption of the Iraq-Iran war. At the same time, Iraq would remain ready to face any possibility, if things outside normal calculations takes place.

It is important for the Iranian political leadership to be stable in order to be able to sign a peace agreement with Iraq, an agreement which will completely rule out any bad blood or any expectations that may create tension and fear.

Q: Your Highness, how do you see the future of relations with Iran?

A: Iran is a country of this region. It is our neighbour, and there should be good mutual relations with Iran. But all this required good intentions. With the presence of good intentions everything can be arranged. With good intentions, Iran can reach at the best of relations, which have become necessary to spread the feeling of trust and stability in the region. Such good relations would benefit all sides. I would like to stress here that time alone can reveal good intentions and with the lapse of time,

relations which should be established with Iran, will gradually come about at the best level, like the relations between all neighbouring countries or those sharing the same region in the world.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Denies JANA Report on Summit

LD1705195489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1830 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 17 (KUNA)—Kuwait on Wednesday welcomed anew the call by King Hassan II of Morocco to hold the extraordinary Arab summit conference, which is due to be held in Casablanca May 23-24.

A Foreign Ministry source told that from the beginning Kuwait has welcomed the call to convene the Arab summit and has immediately supported the proposal by King (?Hassan) to invite Egypt to the conference in order to return to its seat in the forthcoming summit.

The source denied a report by the Libyan news agency (JANA) which contained mistaken information about Kuwait's position toward the summit conference.

Prime Minister To Head Summit Delegation

LD1705112589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 17 (KUNA)—An official statement from the Amiri Diwan said Wednesday that H.H. the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah has ordered that H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah would lead the Kuwaiti delegation to the extraordinary Arab summit meeting scheduled for May 23-25 in Casablanca.

Saudi Arabia

Papers Comment on Iranian Explosives Smuggling

LD1805083589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0505 GMT 18 May 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh 18 May (SPA)—Saudi dailies UKAZ and AL-YAWM dealt with the admission of Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of the so-called Imam Khomeyni, that Iran smuggled explosives into the Kingdom during the 1986-1987 pilgrimage season.

UKAZ said that this admission, which was made by Khomeyni's son to an Iranian daily the day before yesterday clearly exposes those who are striving to split the Islamic ranks and destabilize security in the holiest and purist spot on earth. It also exposes the truth behind those who brag about religion only to fight it in secrecy with intrigue and sabotage.

The paper asked: How Islamic are those who, through their behavior, are daily harming Islam and Muslims, misrepresenting the religion, and distorting the truth? Does the call for God's path lie in intimidating peaceful Muslims who, despite hardships and difficulties, left their wealth and sons behind in their own countries for the sake of performing the pilgrimmage? The Tehran regime, which has completely admitted its act through one of its spokesman, should search for exoneration because it needs such exoneration for the crimes it has committed and is still committing against Islam and Muslims.

The Tehran regime cannot exonerate itself from the crimes and terrorism it has committed against Islam and Muslims. The Muslim Iranian people alone can wash away the injustice from Iran's face and bring it back to its normal position within its Islamic nation, free from all the misleading and unjust independent theological judgments that are currently practiced by those in power in Tehran.

AL-YAWM, also writing about this issue, said that the Iranian rulers, despite the sin they perpetrated against the pilgrims at the holy house of God, still insist on committing the same acts of terrorism and do not hesitate to shamelessly declare their intentions even after their hands have been stained with the blood of the innocents—the victims of Iranian terrorism—in the holy place and during the holy season.

The paper stressed that the Iranian rulers' insistence on rejecting the unanimously adopted resolutions of the Islamic nation on fixing the number of pilgrims, and their insistence on dictating their own conditions in fixing the number of Iranian pilgrims are nothing but some of the well known and well exposed means by which they want to distract the attention of Iranians from the real problems they suffer inside Iran.

King Discusses Summit With Other Arab Leaders

LD1805094189 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud custodian of the two holy mosques, had a telephone conversation this evening with his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, king of Morocco. The king was also telephoned by his brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Then King Fahd telephoned his brother, His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. The talks focused on the latest developments in the Arab region and the work for the success of the extraordinary Arab summit to be held, God willing, on 23 May in Casablanca. The king reviewed with his brother leaders of Morocco, Egypt, and Yemen the Arab issues and the consolidation of Arab ranks and solidarity.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh al-Sharqi Meets DFLP's Hawatimah

JN1705194589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Al-Fujayrah, 17 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Muhammad al-Sharqi, Supreme Council member of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and ruler of Al-Fujayrah, met this evening with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], who is visiting the UAE.

In a statement after the meeting, Nayif Hawatimah said that he reviewed with his highness the ruler of Al-Fujayrah the latest Palestinian, Arab, and international developments, and particularly the valiant intifadah [uprising] being staged by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories—the intifadah which is accelerating and growing day by day.

Hawatimah added that there was agreement on the need to make every effort to support the intifadah. He also called for effective solidarity among all Arab states at the coming emergency Arab summit for working toward a Syrian-Palestinian and a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation, and also for normalizing relations among all Arab states and providing support to the Arab intifadah committee.

On the elections idea contained in Shamir's recent proposals, Hawatimah affirmed that any elections must be contingent on the removal of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied Palestinian territories. He added that elections also require the convening of a comprehensive international Middle East peace conference under the supervision of international forces to ensure that the elections are fair and to guarantee the unity of the Palestinian people inside or outside the occupied territories.

Nayif Hawatimah said that the Unified National Leadership, which is struggling within the ranks of the intifadah, announced in Call No 39 its rejection of the Shamir plan and of elections under occupation. He indicated that there are no differences of opinion on Shamir's proposals between the PLO and the Unified National Leadership.

President Receives Message From PFLP's Habash

JN1705170389 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 17 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a letter from Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habash, dealing with Palestinian developments.

It was delivered to Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan during a meeting with PFLP Politburo member Taysir Qubba'ah.

Qubba'ah praised Shaykh Zayid's principled stands and his support for the Palestinian struggle and the uprising under the leadership of the PLO.

He told EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM) the aim of his visit to the UAE was to brief UAE Leaders on the dangers of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election proposals.

"The proposals are designed to undermine the Palestinian uprising and drive a wedge between Palestinians," he said.

He said he also would give Palestinian proposals to UAE leaders in light of the May 23 Arab summit in Morocco dealing with the Palestinian uprising and ways to stop bloodshed in Lebanon.

Sudan's Ahmad al-Mirghani Departs 17 May

JN1705114489 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpt] Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani left the country at 1200 today for his country following an official 3-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan headed those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Yeman Arab Republic

Chief of Staff Returns From Libya Visit

JN1705145989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee, and his accompanying delegation returned home yesterday evening after a 3-day visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He delivered a message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother leader of the 1 September Libyan revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the Arab arena.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, the chief of staff clarified that he carries a message for the brother leader secretary general from his brother the leader of the 1 September revolution. He pointed out that during the meeting, he met with brother Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the jamahiriyah. They discussed aspects of cooperation between the armed forces in the two fraternal countries.

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Yasir 'Arafat 17 May
JN1705184989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] This evening, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat who is visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the Arab situation, with particular emphasis on the developments of the Palestine question, as well as the tasks to be accomplished by the coming Arab summit.

The meeting was attended by the two under secretaries of the Foreign Ministry, the deputy official in charge of the Liberation Movements Desk, the head of the Arab Department, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan Addresses International Conference
JN1705172289 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 17, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan Iraqi Revolution Council Member and first deputy premier inaugurated here today two-day meetings of the 15th conference of the Economic and Social Commission of West Asia (ESOWA).

Addressing the conferees, Mr Ramadan said that evident contradictions of world economy had contributed to deterioration of international economic crisis shown through non-coordination of total economic policies of some countries and continuity of developing countries' monetary crisis and counter-international trade conditions, all of which had heavily harmed the interests of international community and of developing countries in particular.

He pointed that foreign debt represented an international problem whose consequences would not affect just indebted-creditor relations but future prospects of the international economy as well. He added that the world debt strategy which had made positive steps to resolve the poorest countries' debt, required further heed to realize economic and financial recovery in indebted countries.

Mr Ramadan stressed that the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council constituted a practical step to stabilize Arab economic relations, and an earnest start which would contribute to the promotion of Arab economic action through cooperation with other Arab countries and those of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The Iraqi first deputy premier stressed the necessity to activate Arab economic action to yield national security and strengthen the Arab standing. It is in accord with that understanding that Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, has kept on building its economy in developmental and strategic fields, even during the 8-year-long war with Iran, he said.

Concluding, Mr Ramadan criticized Iran's twisted conduct in the negotiations with Iraq and its pretexts to shun implementation of the U.N. 598 resolution.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Al-Faw Reconstruction
JN1705151689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn chaired a cabinet meeting this morning that lasted approximately 4 hours.

To begin the meeting, his excellency the president and the cabinet ministers stood to read the opening chapter of the Koran for the soul of the late Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, beseeching Almighty God to envelop him with His abundant mercy and to make spacious paradise his abode.

The reconstruction of Al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory, was one of the topics reviewed by the cabinet.

It was decided to begin the process of reconstruction of the city of Al-Faw on 25 June. It was also decided to use the same methods as followed in reconstructing the valiant and great city of Basra, using both state and governorate participation. Furthermore, it was decided to adopt the principle of bidding and competition among the parties and agencies seeking to participate in the reconstruction effort.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said that the the architectural design of Al-Faw must be that of an Arab city containing models of Arab architectural heritage, which take into account the historic and symbolic value of the liberation of Al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory.

His excellency the president affirmed the masses' contribution to the reconstruction effort of the city and said that each Iraqi must contribute to the construction effort according to his means. He added: The motive behind this effort is not a desire to make available a free effort or to collect the funds needed for the reconstruction effort. No, we seek to see this happen because such participation will have historic implications showing the new conduct and behavior of the new Iraqi society. We also want history to say that all Iraqis contributed to the reconstruction of the city of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory.

Mauritanian Envoy Ends Visit, Departs 17 May
JN1705170789 Baghdad INA in English 1545 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 17, INA—Envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya left Baghdad today after conveying a message to President Husayn.

The message expressed President Taya's condolences and consolation over the death of late Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and Defence Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah.

Agreement Signed With FRG Chambers of Commerce
JN1705180189 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 17, INA—Iraq's Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and German-Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry signed here today a minute of joint cooperation.

The minute includes holding joint meetings between businessmen of Iraq and the Federal Republic of Germany to boost bilateral cooperation and carry out joint projects.

The minute [was] concluded by the head of the Iraqi Chambers Union and his German counterpart.

Rabin Discusses Peace Plan, Territories' Policy
TA1805073089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Menahem Friedman and Ya'el Dan, in the studio—live]

[Text] [Friedman] The guest of this morning's program is Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Good morning, sir.

[Rabin] Good morning to you and to the listeners.

[Friedman] The Israeli peace initiative, which you drafted together with Yitzhaq Shamir, intentionally refrained from elaborating on the nature of the final agreement and left all options open to negotiation. Yitzhaq Shamir has already defined the Israeli position in the negotiations on the final agreement. You heard what he said: We will not give even one inch of land, we will not give anything—and, after all, Shamir will head the government when the talks on the final agreement start in 3 years. Is this fact not likely to thwart the chances that the Palestinians may embrace the Israeli initiative?

[Rabin] At this stage, the parties that make up the government retain their positions regarding the nature of the final agreement. That is not what currently unites the major parties composing the unity government.

Aware of the differences of opinion about the final agreement and as a united government, a government of national unity, the main problem we had to tackle was finding a common way. I think this is the only relevant way in everything pertaining to our relations with the Arab world and with the Palestinians in order to launch the political process. The purpose of the initiative approved by the Cabinet is to make progress from the current situation toward peace on our eastern border—namely, with Jordan—and a solution of the Palestinian problem. We recognized that it is impossible, on the Israeli-Arab level first and foremost, to achieve this in one fell swoop or through one move in view of the wide gaps on each and every one of the components without which peace would be unattainable between us and the Arab world. That is why this initiative can be unanimously embraced by all parts of the government. Also, the division of the initiative into two stages is more realistic vis-a-vis the Arab and Palestinian worlds because, as far as the transitional period and the interim solution are concerned, agreement can also be attained among us, and that is the premise on which this initiative is based.

[Friedman] Are you not afraid that you may detract from the Arabs' attraction to the plan if you now start shouting from the rooftops that we will not give back territory under any circumstances whatsoever when the talks on the final agreement are held? This could sabotage the acceptance of the plan by the other side, whereas we want them to accept it.

[Rabin] By the same token, the Palestinians, including those who live in the territories, do not conceal their intention to attain an independent Palestinian state or a confederation with Jordan. According to their wishes, such a state would be established—and we will do everything possible to prevent this—in Judaea, Samaria, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. The basic differences of opinion between us and the Arab world are known. In spite of these differences and while being aware of them—they also exist within the government, but even more so between us and the Arab and Palestinian worlds, including the Palestinians in the territories—we must search for ways to make progress and change the situation and to create through an interim agreement on a definite transitional period a new reality which may bring about a change in positions. We hope this change occurs on their side, but they have the right to hope the change occurs on our side. This is the logic, and I think also the wisdom, of dividing progress toward peace into two stages.

As is known, I am a member of the Labor Party. Not just in the last 1, 2, or 10 years but ever since the end of the 6-Day War, I have always thought that the most important thing for us is to attain peace and security as a democratic Jewish state. In other words, not to assimilate most of the 1.5 million Palestinians residing in the territories. Hence, our willingness to make territorial concessions in the framework of peace with Jordan as a Jordanian Palestinian state on our eastern border.

[Dan] Minister Rabin, with your permission, we would like to focus on the first stage. The PLO has rejected the plan and the notion of elections. At the moment, the inhabitants of the territories—you have met some of them—also reject the plan. How do you perceive the next move?

[Rabin] First of all, the initiative was not addressed to the PLO. We knew from the outset that the PLO would indeed reject it. The initiative is addressed to the inhabitants of the territories.

[Dan] They have also rejected the plan.

[Rabin] The initiative was addressed to them for two reasons. For the first time since 15 May 1948, the Palestinians in Eretz Yisra'el within the boundaries of the British mandate are leading the struggle and are also the ones suffering. Indeed, the views they voiced in their meetings with me were similar—not necessarily identical—to their public comments. At the same time, I believe that if they were free of the fear of internal terror, all-out Arab pressure, including pressure from Tunis-...[changes thought]. Many of them realize this is a rare opportunity to advance, if not toward their avowed goals, certainly toward a significant change in their situation.

[Dan] You used the word if. They are not free of fear.

[Rabin] At this stage, you are certainly right. Therefore, I think that at this stage what we should do is focus on the initiative approved by the Cabinet and create the appropriate conditions—through talks with the United States, the European Community, and the Palestinians—rather than concentrate on the final agreement.

[Friedman] Should the new policy enforced in the last few days in Gaza by the the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]—a curfew and blockade, and a ban on Arabs coming to work in Israel—be seen as part of the efforts, say, to force the local population to accept the initiative?

[Rabin] Israel's overall policy toward what is happening in the territories is two-fold, one of them being a political part. The latter is reflected in the Cabinet's decision on the peace initiative. In other words, we propose to them: Come, let us sit around the negotiating table, and let us advance toward the final agreement in two stages. At the same time, we must—certainly myself as the defense minister, as well as the defense establishment and the IDF—guarantee security in the territories within the restrictions imposed by the law and send a clear message to the Palestinians living in the territories: Forget it; you will never bring about any change in the political initiative with stones or firebombs. We know from experience that a prerequisite for any dialogue with the Arabs, be it on peace or on a limited agreement, chiefly hinges on driving it home to them, both by words and deeds, that through violence—be it war, the terror we never managed to uproot, or certainly the current violence of the inhabitants of the territories—they will get nothing out of us.

[Dan] Is there a chance that the blockade imposed on Gaza may also be imposed on Judaea and Samaria?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into detail about a specific means that was necessitated by certain circumstances and that is part of the security activities in the wake of an event on which I will not dwell at this point. We must look at the overall picture rather than a specific move. Our activities are two-pronged: One is the peace initiative and the way to deal with it in a bid to create an international, pan-Arab, and Palestinian atmosphere that will illustrate to them what they did in the past—the tragedies they inflicted on the Palestinian people because they always said either all or nothing, which left them with nothing. This time they have an opportunity to advance in stages, without defining the nature of the final agreement a priori. The second direction is continuing our activities in order to guarantee security in the territories and reduce the current level of violence.

[Friedman] Sir, you are scheduled to leave for the United States on an important visit. The Americans are interested in the points that are missing from the peace initiative, what Minister Arens terms the minute details, such as whether the Arabs of East Jerusalem would be allowed to vote and be elected and whether there would be international supervision over the elections. Will you go into those details during your visit in the United States?

[Rabin] In my opinion, both in their public statements and certainly in their contacts with the United States, cabinet ministers must try to present the issue in the simplest possible manner. The peace initiative approved by the cabinet outlines a clear process from this point in time until the final agreement and leaves the nature and essence of the final agreement open to free negotiation; it allows not only us but also the Palestinians to raise any proposal they like. In the absence of an unequivocal response as to their willingness to accept the initiative, it is not worthwhile to go into all sorts of issues. They may very well say: We accept it in principle, but we have certain reservations. We will have to discuss those then. Before such a response as to the essence and components of the process, to the way the Palestinian representatives will be elected, it is hard and not worthwhile to comment on either the details or the nature of the final agreement beyond the known positions of the parties in Israel.

[Friedman] Finally, Mr Rabin, in your preliminary talks with Yitzhaq Shamir on the formulation of the initiative, did he voice his fear that he may fail to persuade his colleagues in the Likud and that the Likud Central Committee may not approve the plan, in which case he would consider submitting his resignation to the president?

[Rabin] In the deliberations with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the vice prime minister, we dealt with pertinent issues, and we did not discuss such questions.

[Friedman] Mr Defense Minister, thank you very much. We wish you success in your visit to the United States.

[Rabin] Thank you very much.

On 'Uprising,' Lebanon War

AU1405171489 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 13 May 89 p 5

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Ephraim Lahav; place and date not given: "Intifadah Does Not Lead to a Palestinian State"]

[Text] [Lahav] The intifadah [uprising] has existed for almost 1 and ½ years. Shocking scenes are still being broadcast on European television screens. How long can Israel stand this loss of public sympathy?

Rabin: If we were to choose between sympathy in Europe and other parts of the world on the one hand and Israel's future and security on the other hand, the latter is thousand times more important. Of course, I am concerned about the media reports. However, if we were to trade the

Palestinians' conviction that they could reach their objectives by violence for this and for a partial renunciation of security in the occupied territories, we would certainly take vigorous action against this violence.

[Lahav] Yet these television broadcasts are also watched in the United States, and it has already been reported that it will thus become more difficult to push applications for military and economic aid through Congress.

Rabin: This is not true. One or two people might have said this. However, we are still receiving help as before. Relations between the U.S. and the Israeli defense systems are close and good; cooperation has not been reduced but is increasing. This also applies to strategic cooperation in both directions. The rate of the exchange of information, joint exercises, and mutual visits of delegations is constantly increasing.

[Lahav] Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said that he could suppress the uprising by the methods he used in the Gaza Strip 20 years ago.

Rabin: Here the fact that we are not confronted by an underground organization has to be taken into consideration. The underground groups were not successful. Our difficulties in fighting the intifadah lie in its structure. It does not need complicated organization and logistics for arms supplies, but it uses the most primitive means. It is not necessary to buy stones, and everybody can build incendiary bombs himself.

[Lahav] You have repeatedly stated in public that the problem can only be solved politically.

Rabin: There are two methods. One is suppression—and nothing else. The other tries to solve the problem as such, in order to make peace with Jordan and to put an end to the Palestinian problem. Both methods have to be simultaneously used if we want to make progress, even though only by small steps. Thus we have to take a reasonable political course that corresponds to the government program. However, the Defense Forces have to be used at the same time....

[Lahav] But do you believe that the Palestinians will really accept the Israeli offer? After all, all Arab plans are aiming at the establishment of a Palestinian state—which the two big parties in Israel reject.

Rabin: The Palestinians, primarily those who are living in the occupied territories, are suffering most: 400 deaths, 8,000 to 10,000 injured people, more than 30,000 who have already been in prison, a 30 to 40 percent reduction in the standard of living. They also want to see light at the end of the tunnel. We are offering them progress by one stage at a time, an interim solution. Within this scope they would enjoy full autonomy, except for security and foreign political questions, and the responsibility for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. We promise negotiations on a permanent solution, with or without Jordan, and both sides can make proposals as long as they are in accordance with UN Resolutions 242 and 388. However, if they believe that they can achieve a Palestinian state by the uprising, this hope will be frustrated, just like in 1948 when they believed that they could prevent the establishment of the Israeli state by rejecting the separation plan. It has taken them 40 years to accept this plan. What we offer them now as a provisional solution is far more than those two states offered them when the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were under their rule. It would be deplorable if it took them another 20 years to accept our plan. For they will be the losers in a confrontation with us.

[Lahav] What are the effects of the war in Lebanon on Israel's peace efforts?

Rabin: I am not objective, but I believe that history will show that this operation initiated by Israel, which later developed into a war, was one of Israel's major mistakes. First, because we have not achieved the long-term goals. We have not exterminated terror. The forced peace treaty with Lebanon was a complete failure. We have also discarded the illusion that we could be Lebanon's political guardian. I am satisfied that I was the one who, as the defense minister, pushed this turn in Israeli policy through in 1984, particularly because I recognize now that the 30,000 to 40,000 Syrian soldiers are stuck in a quagmire there.

Second, however, the war in Lebanon stopped the psychological elan for peace which became apparent in our region, especially in view of the Iran-Iraq War, which provided the Jordanians with far more scope for action than they had before. At that time, Iran had to rely on Jordan as an area to pass through and a connection to the outside world. We could have used these 7 years of war for the peace process, but we squandered them.

[Lahav] After the end of the Gulf War, do you believe that Iraq and Syria are endangering Israel far more than the intifadah does?

Rabin: This is true, although the two dangers cannot really be compared. However, I do not believe that, after a long and hard war, Iraq will plunge into war again in the foreseeable future—here I am not thinking in terms of months, but of years.

[Lahav] Why are you so certain?

Rabin: I know the Israeli Defense Forces and I am aware of the fact that there cannot be another military power like Israel in our region. Therefore, I do not see much eagerness to fight in Iraq. Moreover, Iraq and Syria, which helped the Iranians in the hardest war that Iraq ever had to go through, do not like each other. More Iraqis were killed and wounded than in the wars of all Arab states against Israel together. Thus, I do not expect Iraq to help Syria. However, I cannot predict what will happen in 2, 3, or 4 years.

[Lahav] Would Syria dare to confront Israel alone?

Rabin: This would almost certainly be suicide. Yet, we are in the Middle East. Here logic does not always determine decisions. In order to fully use our potential of deterrence, we have to remain strong and follow watchfully what happens in Syria, and we always have to be on the alert in the Golan Heights. In my opinion, if we do this, we will be able to prevent wars—even those we know that we would win. For we know the price of war. However, if we are forced to wage a war, we will gain a sweeping—rapid –victory.

[Lahav] The maintenance of this enormous power is very costly for Israel and creates impatience among the young people and discontent among the older people because of the frequent drafts for the reserve.

Rabin: The existence and the security of a state, certainly of the Israeli State, do not know any price. However, the burden which military expenses put on the economy has been decreasing in relative terms. Compared to the situation 12 or 13 years ago, the share of defense costs in the gross social product has fallen from 14 to 9 percent. Service in the reserve is not connected with the preparedness for war, but with fighting the uprising.

[Lahav] What is your prognosis today for the next decade?

Rabin: It will be a more decisive decade for Israel than the preceding one, and we will have to see it through under more unfavorable conditions.

Sharon Denies Joining Moves 'To Oust' Shamir

TA1705182889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] Minister Ari'el Sharon hosted a meeting this evening at his apartment where he denied that there was a rift within the government over the government's peace plan. [passage omitted] David Ze'ev was there:

[Passage omitted] The host of this evening's meeting, Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon, rejected claims by Likud supporters of the plan in the government that certain ambiguities are necessary to avoid the obstacles and to get the peace process moving.

[Begin Sharon recording] I believe that we are at the present time maybe in the most dangerous situation since the War of Independence. Then, of course, was more dangerous. But since then, this is the most dangerous situation, and in dangerous situations, in difficult times, things should be said clearly. [end recording]

But Sharon denied there was a rift within the Likud and said he did not support the moves or statements made to oust the prime minister. Sharon says today's meeting is a first in a series of discussions he will be holding as the Likud Central Committee chairman.

Darawshah Discusses Shamir Election Plan

JN1605162889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 May 89 p 27

[Interview with 'Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah, Israeli Knesset member and leader of Arab Democratic Party, by Mustafa Badr and Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Do you think that Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories signals a real Israeli desire to consolidate peace?

[Darawshah] The Israeli Government and the Israeli policy are in a real crisis as a result of the blessed intifadah [uprising] of our Palestinian people and the subsequent political and peace initiatives undertaken by the PLO and the Palestine National Council. Israel has become exposed to the world public opinion. The Israeli repression exposed its policy and defeatist position and increased pressures on it. Therefore, Shamir could do nothing but put forward a new initiative in a bid to break out of this impasse. I believe that Shamir's sole objective from this initiative is to gain time and procrastinate so that he could get out of the dilemma facing him and his government. By his initiative, too, Shamir seeks to drive a wedge between the Palestinians inside the occupied territories and those outside it as well as between the PLO and the Arab countries. He thinks or rather hopes that his initiative will create sharp and deep differences between the Palestinians and the Arab countries and even among the Palestinians themselves. Consequently, he seeks to export the crisis—even for a while—so that he could catch his breath. This is delusion, which does not provide evidence of a real desire for the consolidation of peace.

[Question] Can the interactions and reactions to the Israeli initiative lead to a compromise acceptable to the Israeli and Palestinian sides?

[Darawshah] My information stresses that the Israeli Labor Party is putting pressure on Shamir in an effort to convince him to present a more flexible Israeli peace plan whose broad lines are summed up in electing Palestinian political leaders to run the West Bank and Gaza affairs for a 5-year transitional period. In the 3d year of this period, an international peace conference will be held with the participation of all concerned parties, including an independent Palestinian delegation comprising elements from the elected Palestinian leaderships and Palestinians living abroad—meaning elements from the PLO. Regardless of its details and the extent of its acceptance by Shamir or the Palestinians, this plan indicates that Israel is facing a real dilemma. The intifadah is pressing on its nerves. If Israel is not serious today in its search for a real solution, it will one day find itself in a serious quest for a real peace that will be secure and just for all parties.

[Question] Do you think Israel is able to infiltrate into the unified Palestinian ranks and create dissension and disagreements between the Palestinians inside the occupied territories and those outside?

[Darawshah] All Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza are fully committed to the positions and resolutions of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—all the Palestinian people, be they inside or outside the occupied territories. Despite all its attempts, temptations, and pressures on West Bank and Gaza leaders—and I know all about these attempts and pressures—Israel failed to find a single voice inconsistent with the unified Palestinian voice. The leaders inside the occupied territories have never posed anything out of line with the PLO's presentations.

If some people believe that an Israeli dialogue with the leaders of the inside can narrow the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, then these people are delusionary. I do not think that these leaders can do this because it is linked to international equations beyond their influence.

[Question] What are the red lines that the Israeli Government, any Israeli Government, cannot go beyond with regard to the Palestine question and the Arab-Isreli conflict?

[Darawshah] The Palestinian demand of establishing an independent Palestinian state neighboring the state of Israel is very logical, rational, and just. The question to be asked should be: How far can the Israeli governments go in their resistance of the desire by the region's countries to establish a just and comprehensive peace? I am confident that the Israeli Government, any Israeli Government, will be obliged to deal with the Palestine question in a more realistic way. The impact of the intifadah, the PLO peace initiatives, the Arab impetus toward peace, and developments of the international position, especially the U.S. position, toward the achievement of a settlement in the region will ultimately force Israel to deal with this changing reality. I also believe that these developments have had their impact on the Israeli community. More than half of this Israeli community is now supporting negotiations with the PLO. This inclination is indeed gaining ground, and this cannot be overlooked by any Israeli Government. I think that it is inevitable for any Israeli Government, even if headed by Sharon, to deal with this reality. I am confident that time is in favor of our people, and that Israel and the world cannot but accept the existence of the independent Palestinian state next to the State of Israel. [passage omitted]

[Question] What are the implications of the intifadah on the pre-1948 Arabs in Israel?

[Darawshah] We are an integral part of the Palestinian people. We express solidarity with our kinfolk in the occupied territories and are fully sympathetic with the intifadah. The link between the Palestinian people in Israel and those in the occupied territories has never been broken. We try to provide our people in the occupied territories with every possible material and moral assistance, such as medicine, food, clothing, and financial aid, especially during the blockade imposed by the Israeli forces against the towns, villages, and camps of our people in an attempt to starve them. Inside the Knesset, we defend our people's issues and adopt a clear and explicit position supporting the intifadah and demanding recognition of our Palestinian people's right to their independent state. We also organize strikes in solidarity with our Palestinian people and their intifadah, as happened on Land Day—30 March—when we declared a strike in solidarity with our people, organized protest demonstrations, and collected donations. The Arab Democratic Party was the first in the world to recognize the independent State of Palestine, and this made us subject to sharp Israeli criticism.

We are one people, with the same feelings and same ambitions. However, as citizens living in the State of Israel, we have to act in accordance with the laws that govern the State of Israel. Although we are supportive of and sympathetic with the intifadah, we cannot join it. This, however, did not prevent Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from identifying three sources of threat to Israel: 1) The Palestinian intifadah for the most violent large-scale civilian acts, 2) the Arabs of 1948 residing in Israel, and 3) Arab military power. They were so annoyed by the Arabs of 1948 that they contacted us on Land Day, expressing a readiness to meet any demands regarding our domestic issues and civil rights, be they in the field of education, medical treatment, work, or housing, on the condition that we not go on strike in support of the intifadah. We, of course, rejected their bribes and proceeded with our strike.

[Question] Do you believe that the collective Israeli massacres perpetrated every now and then are aimed at horrifying the Palestinians so that they may engage in a mass exodus parallel to that of 1948?

[Darawshah] There are indeed voices in Israel advocating mass expulsion as one of the proposed solutions to undermine the Palestinian voice. However, I cannot say that the Israeli Government is adopting this as an official policy, nor do I think that the massacres perpetrated every now and then are part of such a policy. I think that they basically aim at creating a climate of terror, intimidation, and despair among our Palestinian people, especially since these massacres are perpetrated by units of the Israeli Border Police, whose members are known for their ignorance, ruthlessness, lack of awareness, and descent from the bottom of the Israeli community. Had the Israeli army been the party perpetrating these massacres, things would have been different, and it would have been possible to consider this part of a mass expulsion scheme adopted by the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

Vanunu Appeal Hearing Ends; Ruling Deferred

TA1805121289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Mordekhay Vanunu's appeal hearing ended a few minutes ago in the Supreme Court. The hearing lasted 4 days, and was held under a heavy veil of secrecy. The judges, Me'ir Shamgar, Dov Levin, and Amnon Goldberg deferred their ruling to a later date. This is reported by our correspondent 'Adi Malul.

Gaza Strip Blockade Continues; Some Curfews Off

TA1805042089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The curfew on Gaza, Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, and the Jabalyah refugee camp has been lifted. Curfews remain in effect in other refugee camps and locations in the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the blockade on the Gaza Strip continues. Arab inhabitants are not allowed to leave for work in Israel. Army sources reported that five local Arabs were wounded in yesterday's riots in the territories.

An Arab youngster was killed yesterday in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus in a violent confrontation with Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldiers. Military sources told our correspondent that masked men had pelted the soldiers with stones.

The IDF operated last night in the village of Nahhalin, and arrested several young men. The operation proceeded uneventfully. The IDF is today conducting initiated operations in several other villages in Judaea and Samaria. A senior military source told our correspondent that the IDF has stepped up its activities in villages in order to enforce its control in the rural sector and to arrest wanted men who are local leaders of the uprising.

Curfews remain in effect in 'Anabta and the Nur al-Shams and Tulkarm refugee camps.

Goren on Gaza, Meetings

TA1705180989 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 89

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories by Yoni Ben-Menahem on 17 May—place not given; recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, it is asserted that at the same time that an effort is being made to advance the political plan through meetings with notables from the territories, the defense establishment is exerting massive military pressure on the residents of the territories to make them accept the plan.

[Goren] This issue was also raised in the meeting the defense minister held with the notables yesterday. I am simply quoting what he said: Neither the Civil Administration, nor the defense establishment have any intention of pressuring the population to accept the political plan. Not at all. All the means we have employed in the territories, including the recent steps taken in Gaza, were meant to serve a single purpose: Decreasing the level of violence. This is what we are doing.

[Ben-Menahem] Why then have you not taken such steps in the past?

[Goren] We usually adapt the means we employ to the situation in the field.

[Ben-Menahem] Concerning the meetings you and the defense minister held with people and notables from the territories—Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—why did you choose to meet these particular figures?

[Goren] We decided to invite people and notables from various aspects of the political spectrum, including representatives from the various districts and political currents, to the meetings held in Judaea and Samaria, and in Gaza. This is what we did, and I may add, very successfully.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, some well known Palestinian figures from East Jerusalem are conspicuous in their absence. Why?

[Goren] We deliberately refrained from inviting East Jerusalem notables because we see our partners as the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The notables who were invited were from these areas.

[Ben-Menahem] Does this mean that in the future as well these notables will not be incorporated in negotiations on the elections in the territories?

[Goren] I do not wish to refer to what we will do, or what will be done, in the future. I am speaking of the meetings that were held. We invited residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, are the Americans in contact with Israel regarding the release of Ghassan al-Khatib, who was detained before the meeting with Dennis Ross' delegation 2 days ago?

[Goren] The detention of the man you mentioned has nothing to do with Dennis Ross' meetings. He was detained for security reasons. The defense establishment, which is in charge of this particular case, has detained him for interrogation with no relation whatsoever to meetings he chooses to hold, or was invited to by these or other American officials.

[Ben-Menahem] Was he held for interrogation or administrative detention?

[Goren] He was held for interrogation.

[Ben-Menahem] And are the Americans exerting pressure on you to release him?

[Goren] I know of no pressure to release him. We have a system of communicating with the Americans. Questions were asked and answers were provided.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, do you feel that the leadership in the territories is, in principle, ready to accept the new peace plan or the idea of elections?

[Goren] The plan is only a few days old. No one thought—we certainly did not—that at the beginning of the process we would have an agreement. There is quite a long way, and we are at the beginning.

Permits for Territories Viewed

TA1705182489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 May 89

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An indication of a possible new approach was given to the Knesset Law Committee today by Shmu'el Goren, the Defense Ministry's coordinator of activities in the territories. Goren told committee members that thought is now being given to issuing special work permits to residents of the territories who will be allowed to work in Israel. People with records of criminal or security offenses would not get the permits.

This move, however, is still in the initial planning stage, and could take some months to be implemented when the final decision is taken. Renewal of identity cards to 400,000 men and women in the Gaza Strip last year, for example, took some 4 months to be completed.

Gaza Work Permits Considered

TA1805074389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 May 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Asher Wallfish, Menahem Shalev, and Yoram Kessel]

[Excerpts] All Gazans will henceforth be required to have an individual permit to cross into Israel for work or business purposes. The restrictions are to be extended to West Bankers in time.

Confirming the introduction of a new policy by the defence establishment, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday said in a JERUSALEM POST interview: "This will enable better control, for security reasons, of the movement of people entitled to work inside Israel. [passage omitted]

However, in an apparent attempt to play down the significance of the new measures after alarmed reports about their impact on the Israeli economy, the Defence Ministry last night issued a statement denying any change in policy "in principle". The ministry continues to view positively the ongoing and regular entry of residents of the territories to Israel for work, business, visits and medical treatment," the statement said.

The Coordinator of Activities in the Territories, Shmu'el Goren, told the POST that the new measures are a response to the recent rise in Arab violence inside the Green Line. [passage omitted]

Rabin said that the new permit system could be introduced in the Gaza Strip by the end of the month and be fully operational "within 2-3 months". He said it would supplement the policy of issuing two types of identity cards put into force in the territories a year ago.

Under that system only those people issued with red cards were permitted to travel freely outside the territories whereas those holding green identity cards were restricted to the territory in which they live.

The intention is to make the scheme operational in the West Bank too although he acknowledged that could be "more complicated". Whereas Gaza was surrounded by a fence and a ditch and the few openings for traffic and movement of people could be controlled, there is no clear cut line distinguishing between the West Bank and the sovereign soil of the State of Israel.

The new permits would be issued for daily use or according to the nature of the business needs of the people seeking them. Once the new permit system was in force the intention would not be "to carry out daily, but random checks. In addition, however, every Israeli employer would be obliged to check whether people working for him have the correct identity cards and the required permit." [passage omitted]

Nitzav [Commander] Yehoshu'a Kaspi, head of the police investigations division, added that 28,000 Arabs from the territories had been convicted of criminal offences during the past ten years (as distinct from terrorism charges). He said that in future those convicted of crimes against person and property, and of drug offences, would be barred. [passage omitted]

Israelis Fill Gazans' Jobs

TA1805075589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 May 89 p 1

[Report by Jeff Black, Larry Derfner, and Michael Rotem]

[Text] Five hundred Israeli workers yesterday took over jobs in the Tel Aviv region previously held by workers from the Gaza Strip, the Employment Service announced last night, as some industries reported serious work shortages. The service also said another 500 Israeli jobseekers in the southern region found work yesterday in light of the curfew in the Gaza Strip.

Employers in the central and southern region have so far put in requests for around 2,500 workers with the Employment Service, following the non-appearance of Gazan workers. Under the law, employers wishing to employ non-academic workers must first apply to the Employment Service for workers before privately hiring staff.

But many employers have not bothered to apply for new workers, in the belief that the curfew would shortly be lifted, Employment Service officials said. They said that they expect more applications the longer the clampdown was in force.

The officials also noted that the employers who had applied for Israeli workers were prepared to pay higher wages than previously offered and were also offering permanent work.

While some industries said their current workforces were taking up the slack, the Polgat Bagir textiles plant in Qiryat Gat had "reached the point where it was impossible" to cope with the loss of its 130 Gazan workers, said Managing-Director Dov Pollak. Not enough Jewish replacements could be found who were willing to work staggered shifts to fill the empty positions, he said.

Moshe Amir, head of the Israel Hotels Association, said the curfew caused "no problems" to the hotels, because only about 200 or so of the more than 20,000 hotel employees in the country were from Gaza.

All of the Gazans work in the Tel Aviv hotels as waiters, maintenance workers or kitchen employees, and local high-school pupils and others, are planned to fill most of these low-paying positions, he said.

Intifadah [uprising]-related work stoppages have led the Tel Aviv municipality's sanitation department to issue a tender that bans the hire of Arab workers from the territories. The department will only use private subcontractors who employ Israeli workers.

Gaza Lawyer: Men Sentenced Without Legal Counsel

TA1805125889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 May 89 p 6

[Report by Mikhal Qedem]

[Text] "Defendants in a military court in Gaza were tried and sentenced to various prison terms without the benefit of legal counsel." This claim was made by Fayiz Abu Rahmah, the chairman of the Gaza Bar Association. According to Abu Rahmah, the number of defendants involved is at least 20.

The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman denied this allegation.

Last Thursday, a general curfew was imposed on the Gaza Strip. A hearing of cases involving several defendants accused of terror activities and other crimes had been set for that very day in the Gaza military court.

When the Arab lawyers in the Gaza Strip discovered that they would not be able to get to the court on account of the curfew, they requested a postponement of the hearing. Abu Rahmah and Attorney Khalid Abu Qidrah from Khan Yunus said that the court refused to postpone the hearing. Abu Rahmah said that "in the past we were permitted to travel even during a curfew if we had a special permit. But they were canceled some time ago." He also stated that the Bar Association intends to take action to prevent any recurrence of this phenomena.

Paper Views IDF Measures in Territories

TA1705142389 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 May 89 pp 1, 25

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "An Iron Fist in the Area and an Indirect Political Hint"]

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces' [IDF] attempt to lower the level of friction with the residents of the territories by cutting down the forces employed in the region has not succeeded.

The wave of murders within the Green Line boundaries has also not died out at the end of the month of Ramadan. Attacks on collaborators (real or imaginary) have continued and even increased. Traveling the roads of the territories has become more dangerous than before.

There is no wonder, therefore, that the increase in the level of violence of the intifadah [uprising] in the past month has forced the defense establishment to not only reevaluate the situation, but also to use means it has so far refrained from taking.

Since the beginning of the uprising, IDF authorities have strictly refrained from using the stick of canceling the right to work in Israel against the population of the territories. This has been avoided, first, because this would be a collective punishment, pushing all of the Palestinian population of the territories into the circle of the intifadah; and second, because preventing them from working in Israel would further deteriorate the economic situation of the residents of the territories, chiefly those in the Gaza Strip. This would be followed by despair and frustration, which would lead to unemployed youths joining the lines of activists. The defense establishment did not want to play into the hands of the uprising activists who aspire to cut the links between the residents of the territories and Israel.

The recent events, however, brought forth a situation in which Israel has almost lost control of what is happening in the territories. New and harsher steps to which the local population has not yet become "immune" were needed. The imposed general curfew and the returning of

the Arab laborers constitute a clear hint: Despite having serious reservations against the use of collective punishments and despite the damage this might cause the Israeli economy, Israel will not hesitate to use this measure when faced with a state of affairs such as what we are now witnessing. For the time being, this is only a signal used against the recent turmoil in the Gaza Strip. The hint, nevertheless, is very clear.

In Judaea and Samaria, where whole regions have become independent, the IDF has returned to the policy of initiated activity in the villages. It mainly resorts to detaining wanted men who recently have not even bothered to stay in hiding. This time the Border Police were not employed. The IDF sent many, though small, elite standing army units.

The IDF has also beefed up the overall number of its units in the territories. This step has two aims: minimizing the number of incidents in which soldiers are forced to shoot in order to extricate themselves from complicated situations and foiling riots or attacks on collaborators before they spread.

For the time being, these are merely a series of operations whose aim is to decrease the level of violence in the field in the near term. It has no apparent direct link to the political process that is gaining momentum. An indirect link, however, does exist. The recent steps taken are meant, among other things, to make clear to the residents of the territories that even in the midst of a political process, Israel will continue to use full force to calm down the area, and that it is not prepared to maneuver itself into a situation in which it will be forced to hold negotiations from an inferior position.

Decree Bans Druze Shaykh's Entry to Territories

TA1805092589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The Israeli army authorities have issued a decree banning entry to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for 1 year to Shaykh Jamal Mu'addi, chairman of the Druze Initiative Committee from the village of Yirka in the Galilee. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Shaykh Mu'addi is a member of the Druze circles affiliated with RAKAH [New Communist List] which raise donations for the inhabitants of the territories.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Soldiers Sentenced to Prison

TA1705181589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpt] Two more soldiers have been sentenced to prison for their refusal to serve in the territories. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that 'Amit Lovenhoff, a regular army soldier, was sentenced to 19 days in prison, while reservist Angelo Heiden was sentenced to 35 days in prison. [passage omitted]

5 Hurt by Army Gunfire in Gaza

TA1705194489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Five youths were wounded by Israel Defense Forces' gunfire in the Gaza Strip today as the army was dispersing rioters. Two of the youths were injured in Gaza City, and the other three elsewhere.

The general curfew in the Gaza Strip remains in effect until further notice, and it is strictly observed.

Gaza Building Blown Up

TA1705175289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] today blew up a building in Gaza from which stones were hurled at an IDF patrol, injuring a soldier. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that searches of the building revealed caches of firebombs and iron bars used for attacks.

The curfew in the Gaza Strip continues, but it may be lifted by the end of the week.

Our correspondent adds that the IDF operated in the Nabulus area villages of (Al-Arr) and Zayta today. Several suspects were rounded up for interrogation.

Update on 17-18 May Incidents

TA1805082089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 May 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In Al-Birah, security forces arrested Shaykh Bassam Jarrar, considered a leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). Jarar was freed from the Qezi'ot detention camp over a month ago in a massive prisoner release at the start of the Ramadan fast. He had served six months in administrative detention.

In the Tulkarm area, soldiers raided 'Illar and Zayta, where a youth was wounded by a steel marble shot by troops. In Qalqilyah, leaflets signed by Fatah's Shabiba youth movement called for the local "strike forces" to be renamed "The Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] Squadrons."

In Nabulus, a 15-year-old was wounded, Palestinians said.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 18 May in an unattributed report on page 12 in the "News in Brief" feature adds that "a car was stoned in the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood of Jerusalem late last night. The driver was struck in the teeth, and his passenger, an arab resident of Jericho, sustained head wounds. The two were admitted to Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus and were later released."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 18 May in its update on events in the terrritories reposts: "Overnight, the Israeli army blew up a room in the house of a local inhabitant of the Jabalyah refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that he had been a member of the popular committees and was suspected of attacking Arabs whom he believed were collaborating with Israel."]

Arab Dies of Wounds

TA1805092489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports: A 20-year-old man who was wounded in riots in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp about 2 weeks ago died of his wounds this morning in Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. Upon learning about his death, riots erupted in the camp. The Israeli army has clamped a curfew on Al-Duhayshah and has pronounced the area a closed military zone.

There is a general strike today in Judaea and Samaria in keeping with the call of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas to protest the harassment of mosques by the authorities. The general strike is being observed in full in the Christian towns as well.

1 Killed, 3 Hurt by IDF Gunfire

TA1805162589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Near the Samaria village of Jamma'in, an Arab youth was killed by Israel Defense Forces [IDF] gunfire as he was trying to snatch a soldier's weapon. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that masked youths tried to block the trans-Samaria highway. When IDF soldiers intervened, one of them attempted to snatch a soldier's weapon.

This afternoon, three residents of the Tulkarm refugee camp were injured by IDF gunfire in the course of an attempt to violate the curfew. It has been reported that a 6-year-old girl is among the injured.

King Husayn Terms Shamir Plan 'Waste of Time'

JN1805131989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] King Husayn has expressed his belief that the Israeli proposal to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories is an attempt to waste time and to escape the increasing world pressure to solve the Palestine question in a just and honorable manner.

In a statement to reporters, including the Radio Monte Carlo correspondent, King Husayn said if a certain formula is included in the framework of an integrated process conducive to the desired comprehensive solution, and to the realization of the Palestinian people's rights on their national soil, the Palestinians may have an opinion on that. King Husayn reaffirmed that he does not assume the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people, stressing that the issue concerns the Palestinian people who are represented by the PLO under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat.

In this regard, he expressed his conviction that the Palestinian leadership can express itself on the subject of elections. He reiterated the Palestinian position, which was established at the Palestine National Council session in Algiers and declared to the world in Geneva. He also referred to the Palestinian initiative, stressing that he and all Arabs are dutybound to support it to the best of their ability and give those concerned the freedom to move as they deem fit.

Regarding Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id's visit to Amman, which ended today, King Husayn said it was successful and fruitful. He paid tribute to the Sultanate's generosity and constant care for Jordan's problems. The king also hoped that the Arab countries would extend financial aid to Jordan, especially after his recent meetings with the heads of these states and the recent events in Jordan.

Concluding, King Husayn said no date has yet been fixed for parliamentary elections in Jordan, indicating that preparations for these elections are in full swing. He added: I am serious in what I am saying.

King Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Issues

JN1705172789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has described relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman as ideal and an example of how relations between brothers should be. In an interview with the Omani media delegation accompanying His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, his majesty said: His majesty the sultan is a brother and a friend toward whom I harbor respect, pure love, appreciation, and faithfulness. [passage omitted]

Asked about the establishment of Arab groups and their effect on the role of the Arab League, His Majesty King Husayn said: We hope the Arab League will be much more effective and influential than in the past. However, I believe the establishment of these groups is the result of need for them and for cooperation among them to reach their objectives and aims. He said the efforts are for the good of the Arabs and the coming generations. He said the Arab League could be more capable of acting now among the three Arab groupings and some fraternal states than when it had to involve 20 Arab banners and states with their various ideas and orientations. He said the trend is toward cooperation, genuine integration, and solidarity among us all, given we are one nation.

On his majesty's efforts to convene an international peace conference, he said: These efforts continue; dialogue with the five permanent member states is also going on. This dialogue is based on our contacts and understanding with the PLO. He said: I believe there is acceptance of the idea of an international conference at the appropriate time.

His majesty said that he fully agrees with His Majesty Sultan Qabus about the necessity to exploit these circumstances, as our issues are of concern to the world. He indicated that some do not want detente which is why matters continue as they are. He said this does not pose a threat to the Middle East only, but to the world as a whole.

His majesty touched on the recent regrettable incidents. He said: In fact, the incidents we experienced were a dark spot in our lives. I believe we are about to leave it behind forever, as far as we are able given our capabilities and resources. Naturally, the size of the problem is equal to what we expected to receive from our brothers in accordance with a Baghdad summit resolution 10 years ago. The resulting deficit is equal to what we failed to receive from our brothers. I do not want to go into details, but I reiterate our thanks and gratitude to our brothers in the Arab homeland.

His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed his determination and resolve to promote Jordan, proceed toward self-sufficiency, and to reconsider everything. He also affirmed his determination to arrange priorities, and do all that can be done to alleviate the suffering of low income citizens and to have the well-to-do carry some of the burden, so that everyone takes part in overcoming this crisis with measures based on confidence, awareness, and common understanding of what is taking place.

His Majesty King Husayn referred to the issue of elections. He hoped that they would be held soon to make it possible for every citizen to participate in parliamentary life, which was established in this country many years ago, and of which we are proud and seek to maintain.

His majesty referred to the proposition of a national charter based on respect for the Constitution and on the bases of the Great Arab Revolt and the Arab awakening.

This charter should define the limits and broad frameworks within which everyone can exercise his responsibilities and take part in making the future.

His majesty affirmed that these ideas were alive in our minds and that they were not taken under any pressure or to withstand any pressure. He affirmed these ideas were born by our feeling of the need for a systematized collective participation, with which all challenges will be confronted.

Responding to a final question on His Majesty Sultan Qabus' current Arab and European tour, His Majesty King Husayn said: I believe this tour is very useful. We cannot live in isolation from the world, not to mention our contacts as brothers. His majesty added: I always believe that this is the sound and correct line. When His Majesty Sultan Qabus moves, he represents the Arab nation and serves its interests. Thus, others in the world can be acquainted with facts and ties of friendship between us and them are strengthened.

Mufti Killing Said Aimed Against League Efforts

JN1805080689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "For the Mufti's Sake, No More Killings]

[Text] The huge car bomb which assassinated the grand mufti of Lebanon Shaykh Hasan Khalid and killed and wounded scores of other innocent Lebanese was obviously aiming at the destruction of the ceasefire and good will that were generated by recent painstaking Arab League efforts. It is no mere coincidence that the murder of the Sunni leader in Lebanon occurred at a time when the Arab efforts in Lebanon were beginning to bear fruit and were on the verge of attaining and declaring an unprecedented breakthrough in the Lebanese crisis. All those forces which are on the side of continued bloodshed in Lebanon must accordingly be viewed as probable suspects, on the top of which are Israeli agents. It is no secret that Israel is having a field day since Lebanon was submerged in inter-factional and inter-Arab armed struggles and internecine fighting and killing. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its perpetual occupation of southern Lebanon cannot be viewed except as most destabilising developments that have contributed a great deal to Lebanon's continued ordeal.

Yet, Israel and its agents are not the only suspects in this macabre assault on the leader of the Sunni Muslims in Lebanon. There are ample diabolic opportunists within Lebanon who are working constantly to keep the fire in Lebanon burning indefinitely. What better way to keep the flame of hostility in Lebanon burning than by killing religious leaders whether Muslim or Christian? and, since the intentions of the perpetrators of this latest heinous crime against the whole of Lebanon is to sow discord once again in Lebanon in the wake of the latest Arab successes to bring about an initial agreement between the various factions, it behoves the aggrieved party not to succumb to the trap set for it and for the whole Lebanese people by not reacting in kind. Otherwise, the cycle of revenge would be set in motion once again with the no end in sight. Accordingly, all those who truly mourn Shaykh Khalid are urged to abstain from acts of revenge in honour of the man who struggled so hard to bring about harmony and accord among his one people. This would be the highest tribute that can be bestowed upon Shaykh Kahlid and all those who support his glorious path of reconciliation.

Crown Prince on April Riots, Other Topics

AU1305153589 Vienna WOCHENPRESSE in German 12 May 89 pp 38-39

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Elisabeth Heresch: "Threatened by Treason"; date, place not given]

[Text] WOCHENPRESSE: Were the recent riots really just a reaction to higher prices, or was there incitement from outside forces?

Hasan: The riots were of a local nature. The cause was an increase in transportation fees, and basically not enough information was exchanged between the effected region and the capital, which of course caused further rumors. However, such riots always provide an opportunity which certain forces always use for their purposes. Thank God, we were able to contain the riots, and thus to control them.

WOCHENPRESSE: For many years, you were responsible for West Bank affairs. What is your position now that Jordan has terminated its official relations with the West Bank?

Hasan: The West Bank development program should be continued, without taking into consideration whether Palestinians or Jordanians live there. The West Bank needs comprehensive development in the future, and I hope that the local institutions will cooperate in this field to serve the cause of the Palestinians' identity and their further economic development. As regards Jordan, we will, of course, continue our payments—for example, pensions and wages in projects operated by us—and we will continue to be financially responsible for development projects.

WOCHENPRESSE: What can Jordan do now to bring the PLO and Israel closer together?

Hasan: The fact that the PLO is now itself in the driver's seat does not exempt us of responsibility. In fact, before his majesty's (King Husayn) visit to Washington, a coordination meeting with President 'Arafat took place. These consultations were continued after his majesty's return. We are trying to convince the United States of the necessity for an international Middle East peace conference. We want to be a stable country which, with

a joint 600-km border with Israel, is able to convey the Palestinians the feeling to that we are providing them with a window to the Arab world.

WOCHENPRESSE: What has King Husayn achieved in his talk with President Bush?

Hasan: The Israeli prime minister and the Egyptian president visited Bush before he did, and the U.S. Administration is slowly defining its final position. There are controversial issues, such as the elections in the occupied territories. Our position is completely clear in this respect: The elections have to be considered in the only acceptable context—a process that results in the withdrawal of the occupation forces. The intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories is fighting for the withdrawal from the territories and should not be turned into a civil rights movement.

WOCHENPRESSE: What steps have you taken yourself?

Hasan: We are maintaining a permanent dialogue with the superpowers and are actively involved. We hope that the discussion between the superpowers will lend weight to the Middle East peace process.

WOCHENPRESSE: Do you really believe that the United States will force Israel to retreat?

Hasan: The U.S.-Israeli friendship is actually very close. Henry Kissinger used to say: "A strong Israel is a moderate Israel." However, Israel has not adhered to this and has refuted this statement innumerable times. Lebanon and the occupied territories—one only needs to be in the region to see the continuing tragedy.

WOCHENPRESSE: Is the idea of a Palestine-Jordan federation obsolete?

Hasan: The offer of a Palestine-Jordan federation puts the cart before the horse. We are all unionists and believe in a single Arab nation and in Arab unity.

WOCHENPRESSE: Are these not visions of the future?

Hasan: It must be up to the Palestinian and Jordanian people to choose the time. However, the withdrawal from the occupied territories comes first.

WOCHENPRESSE: Allegedly, King Husayn himself has met the former Israeli leadership several times. Are talks with the present Israeli Government still useful in your opinion?

Hasan: There have been speculations for many years. However, the question of whether such meetings were relevant is more important. And it has to be stated that now talks are only useful within the international community of the Security Council.

WOCHENPRESSE: Under what conditions—apart from Israel's total retreat—can elections be held in the West Bank?

Hasan: The PLO has made it clear that it welcomes the United Nations as a supervisory body. The United Nations itself has called for the long-awaited retreat often enough.

WOCHENPRESSE: Should the PLO go beyond its declarations of Algiers and Paris?

Hasan: I cannot give advice to the PLO and follow everything that it states in public.

WOCHENPRESSE: In retrospect, do you believe that the PLO would have been well advised to join the Camp David process?

Hasan: If there had been a comprehensive commitment to peace—that is, the exchange of land for peace—the agreement would have been credible. And if there had been an agreement on the key Resolution 242, it would have been sensible to commit itself to it.

WOCHENPRESSE: Would a Palestinian state in the West Bank—as some observers believe—represent a potential danger for Jordan?

Hasan: We are in a very sensitive position, and as long as treason is possible, there will always be danger, from wherever it comes. It is in our interest that the future of this region be one of constructive pluralism, in which Jordanians and Palestinians will make their contribution to translating their political aspirations and rights into reality.

Arab League's Klibi Meets Foreign Minister, Departs

JN1705151289 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Amman, 17 May (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed the importance of concentrating Arab efforts in the emergency Arab summit to be held in Casablanca next week on the two basic issues on its agenda: the Palestine question and the Lebanese crisis.

He said this today when he met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi during negotiations to prepare for the summit conference.

Klibi left Amman this evening after a short visit. He had arrived this morning.

Journalists Cited on Freedom of Press
JN1805074089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 May 89 p 4

["Defining the Limits of Fourth Estate" by staff reporter Najwa Najjar]

[Text] Amman—"Maintaining and deepening dialogue between the government and citizens in the context of calm dialogue through direct or indirect communications and respecting responsible freedom of expression and freedom of the press in accordance with internationally recognized national principles based on the concept of national belonging and the multitude of opinions within reasonable limits." This is His Majesty King Husayn's directive to the new government, April 26, 1989, concerning the role of the media.

On May 15, the government of Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir made the first step in this direction. Five journalists previously banned from writing, were allowed to resume "their journalistic activities and effectively participate in serving their country and society through their work."

Speaking to journanlists on May 15, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd said that the government will implement the king's directive, which he says, "gives all possible support and care for journalsits and is keen to provide suitable and optimum atmosphere for enabling journalism to play its required national role."

The king's directive is based on the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of speech and press and supports two of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) laws and the draft charter of human and people's rights in the Arab World.

The directive further shows Jordan's commitment to the International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights. Jordan was one of the first countries, in 1976, to sign and to ratify this convenant which emanated from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, and translated into treaty obligations on the part of each member state.

The JPA welcomed the directive wholeheartedly, voicing hopes that channels of communication between the government and all sectors of society will be further opened. According to the president of the association Hashim Khuraysat the directive established the criteria for respecting differing opinions and views.

"This (the directive) inspires us to work towards organising and developing the media profession in cooperation with the government, to ensure that we will perform our role and duty, entrusted to us by the new reality created by King Husayn" Khuraysat said.

Both he and former minister of information, Layla al-Sharaf see the new reality emerging when the new government implements the king's directives and "restructures the media in order for all (citizens) to express their opinions by the right means and for (the purpose of) development," Khuraysat said.

Both agree that the king's directives will soon be translated into "practical steps" by the government.

Jordanians ask whether the riots that took place in some cities and towns last month could have been avoided if the channels of communication between the government and the people were "a bit wider."

Al-Sharaf strongly believes that after the recent riots, the new government is capable of understanding the implications behind the lack of national debate and will be taking the necessary steps to ensure the "natural flow (of communciations)."

According to Al-Sharaf: "After the parliament was dismissed... there was no forum available for people to express themselves. They had some venues (parliament and press) for national debate which made them feel that their concerns were reaching the top."

Former editor-in-chief of AL-DUSTUR, Mahmud al-Sharif says that he sees the king's directives as fitting a global glasnost, which calls for "more freedoms and more popular participation in decision-making."

"A free unbridled press (is essential) for the improvement of the political climate, especially in the absence of political parties," said Al-Sharif.

AL-DUSTUR columnist Mu'nis al-Razzaz and Kuwaiti AL-WATAN correspondent, 'Abdallah Hamdan agree that in the absence of political parties, the press could act as a "substitute parliament" for Jordanians to voice their opinions. They see a great necessity at the moment for a debate preceding the forthcoming parliamentary elections whereby nominees could use the press to state their stands.

"Like parliament members, journalists should be granted immunity as long as they do not work to agitate the people." Al-Razzaz says.

For the debate to take place several journalists and columnists have asked whether the new government needs to look into the previous government's decision to own a majority of the stocks of the newspapers and to consider amending the press and publications law.

According to two AL-RA'Y columnists, Tariq Masarwah and Ibrahim Abu Nab, the emergency economic powers, which were used last year to reorganize the boards and management of the four dailies, contributed to assimilation in news reporting.

Newspapers' Ownership

Government quasi ownership of the newspapers meant that all newspapers became uniform, reflecting the government (owner) policy. According to journalists interviewed this was unnecessary since the government already owned more powerful mediums of expression such as television and radio.

"The difference between a free press and a government agency, is that (the latter) is a mouthpiece of the executive branch of the state, while a free press should be a free expression of the wishes of the people," Abu Nab said.

He says that while journalists object to a government appointed management interfering with their work, they would accept a non-government management "because journalists would have a choice to work for other newspapers if they do not like any one paper's policy."

Masarwah agrees. He says that if the government is intent on the freedom of the press, it will have to implement a new policy and sell its shares back to the public. He says that journalists should own at least 10 per cent of their respective newspapers' shares. "Such a move will save the newspapers," Masarwah says.

He cites SAWT AL-SHA'B as an example of the failure of government-owned newspapers to make successful business.

"Sixty seven per cent of SAWT AL-SHA'B is owned by the government. The newspaper is losing. It has already lost a quarter of a million dinars."

"Let the people elect a board of directors, who then has the right to appoint an editor-in-chief," Masarwah says, adding that this will not mean that the people might choose a board of directors against the system "because there is no such thing as someone with or against the system. If the system is good then everyone will respect the system."

AL-RA'Y editor-in-chief Rakan al-Majali also suggested public shareholding companies to own the newspapers.

According to Al-Majali, "only if the paper employs those who do not have a personal interest in the newspapers, will there be a change in the present conditions (of the newspaper)." He believes that until political and social popular organisations are established, "there is a need for the press to be under (government) control in order to properly portray the country's outlook and perspective."

Revising the Law

The second prerequisite necessary to remove obstacles in the path of free press, is a revision of the press and publication law. According to that law, the cabinet has an absolute right to suspend or abolish any newspapers' licence without being challenged in a court of law. The cabinet also has the right to punish any journalist who violates the law, again without being challenged in a court of law.

According to Al-Sharif,, the press and publications law holds the editors and journalists "in terror."

"People should be encouraged to express their opinions without (any fear of) prosecution as long as they do not endanger the security of the country."

He suggests that Jordan follows the model of other democratic states, whereby the government or any individual has the right to bring any newspaper or journalist to court on the grounds that they have violated the law.

Journalist Lamis Andoni objects to journalists facing the government pressure for "reporting facts that do not please officials." She says that objectivity does not contradict with the freedom of expression, "provided the writer reports on all aspects," of a news story.

Often, Andoni says, a journalist is held responsible for reporting a fact, "but, we are punished as through we are making up the facts."

Andoni believes when the officials become truly convinced that a free press is an essential factor for development and progress, then the "reasonable limits"—contained in the king's directives—can be defined as a "practical and tolerant attitude towards the press and freedom of expression." Otherwise, she feels there will be a misuse of power, with the "reasonable limits' determined by "the mood and the judgment of the concerned officials."

Abu Nab believes that the (press and publication) law "should not be a stumbling block (in the path of a free press)." He says that the press is controlled by laws, and "(laws) should not preclude the freedom of the individual."

However, Al-Majali does not consider the press and publications law an obstacle "since it is no longer practiced."

He says that these days newspapers are not threatened by closures, "but, editors are liable to being replaced."

Khuraysat, who also calls for the revision of the press and publications law, says that the JPA board was asked by the JPA on March 24, 1989 to present any proposals for amendments to the said law in three months time. Although the association will be working to remove any obstacles which impede the implementation of press laws "in light of the new reality created by the king's directive," Khuraysat stressed "there

must be an agreement between the press and publications law and the JPA law."

He explained that since the press and publications law is being enforced," we are hoping through cooperation with the government that the association's law will also be enforced. Therefore we have to work to have both laws, which complement and do not contradict one another," be enforced.

At the same time Al-Sharaf cautions journalists and columnists to "go slowly with the new freedom (given), until decision-makers get used to free press and to ensure (journalists) do not get a backlash.

For her, the new freedom should be a learning process for officials, journalists and the public, and "not just a (tool) for an outpour of frustrated feelings."

Journalists and columnists maintain they want to work for a more democratic press in Jordan. They believe that as the government implements the king's directives on the freedom of the press, their hopes will be fulfilled.

Al-Razzaz sums it up: "I hope that we will turn a new page. Often we hear beautiful words about democracy, but there is a big distance from the time the decision is formulated at the top and the time it reaches the bottom." and he, like the others, does not believe in "just talking about democracy, I believe in practicing it."

Further Reaction to Mufti Khalid's Assassination

Qansuh Promises Vengeance

NC1705152389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Eng 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon, has condemned the crime of the assassination of Mufti Khalid. He stressed: We will avenge the blood of the hero and will remain loyal to his course.

Qansuh noted that the calamity has prompted the Muslims in the Arab and Islamic world, as well as all free men everywhere, to denounce this sinful crime, which was committed by the Israeli Mosad and the military clique.

Group Vows Vengeance

NC1705165289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] This evening, The Martyr Shaykh Hasan Khalid Forces Organization declared that it has decided to strike at the Syrian presence in West Beirut in revenge for the blood of Shaykh Hasan Khalid and until the last occupying soldier departs from Beirut.

The organization also vowed that it will take revenge on the big traitor and Zionist agent Walid Junblatt, who has dedicated all his efforts to striking at the Muslim presence in Lebanon.

Cabinet Discusses Mufti Case

NC1805141289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting this morning. The meeting began with a 1-minute silence in memory of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the republic. The Council of Ministers referred the vicious assassination crime to the Judicial Council because it concerns the state's security. The cabinet expressed the view that aim of the crime was to strike at one of the state's most prominent spiritual figures.

The late mufti was a great man who embodied the call for the unity of Lebanon and for adherence to dialogue, tolerance, and a free and dignified coexistence among the various Lebanese spiritual families. The Council of Ministers praised the Lebanese people in all parts of the country for their awareness and understanding and for having succeeded in turning the aftermath of the subversive crime into a consensus on clinging to a unified coexistence and on rejecting the criminal occupationist practices, which aim to sow division and sedition among the people of the homeland.

The cabinet also stated that the fact that the assassination took place in the areas under Syrian ocupation is yet further evidence for those who still believe that the Syrian role in Lebanon is a peaceful one and an element of stability in the region, and should make them reconsider their stand.

The cabinet then examined the ongoing Arab and international moves and stands in light of the preparations for the Arab summit conference, due to be held in Casablanca. The cabinet and Ambassador Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant Arab League secretary general, reviewed the latter's efforts aimed at implementing the Arab foreign ministers' council resolutions regarding the Lebanese crisis.

The cabinet went on to discuss living, economic, and supply conditions in light of the continued Syrian sea and land blockade of the eastern areas. Stricter measures to control prices and prevent monopoly and exploitation were also examined.

Syria Reportedly Responsible

JN1705163589 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Beirut, May 17, INA—All the Lebanese went on a general strike today in protest against assassination of Lebanon's Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid in a car bomb blast yesterday.

INA correspondent here said that a nation-wide unrest prevailed among thousands of mourners who rallied in preparation for the funeral of the mufti. Lebanese political circles in West Beirut speculate the assassination of mufti to have been plotted by the Syrian regime to subvert one of the figures working in the interest of Lebanon's unity and liberation.

An informed Lebanese political source told INA correspondent in Beirut that the ties between the late mufti and the Syrian regime had been always deteriorating, and had worsened as he refused to visit Damascus at a recent official invitation from Syrian officials.

The source said that the mufti had received during the last two months several threat messages as he and his 'Islamic Meeting' gathering rejected pressures to endorse the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

The source added that the Syrian intelligence resorted to beating the mufti's son Sa'd al-Din Khalid a few days before the killing of mufti, who considered the event a threat message aimed at his life.

Iranian Majlis on Death

LD1705180289 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Various groups and personalties continue to condemn the murder of Lebanese Sunni Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid, who was killed in a car explosion Tuesday, believed to be the work of the Western backed Phalangists.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Majlis (parliament), said the critical situation of Lebanon with all its gory massacres and kidnappings indicates the depths of plots hatched by the Zionist regime and its mercenaries.

"The crimes take place hand in hand with the aid of the U.S., Egyptian and Iraqi regimes to the Maronite Christians under the renegade Michel 'Awn to destroy Muslims in Lebanon," said the statement released by the committee.

In Beirut, the Iranian Embassy expressed grave concern over the tragedy, and termed it "a plot of world arrogance to destroy Muslims."

Iran's Shahid (Martyr) Foundation also expressed hatred over the murder of Shaykh Khalid and warned that such crimes would only serve to further strengthen the iron will of the Muslims to fight global arrogance.

PLO Calls FRG Aid Group 'Undesirable'

NC1705175189 Paris AFP in English 1723 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, May 17 (AFP)—Lebanon was in mourning Wednesday for the assassinated religious leader of the Sunni Moslem community as almost 100,000 people attended the funeral of Shaykh Hasan Khalid. [passage omitted]

In the country's latest kidnap drama, meanwhile, the PLO declared as "undesirable" a West German aid group whose members have gone missing in south Lebanon for the second time in as many weeks.

Two workers from the West German relief organisation ASME-Humanitas, Thomas Kemptner, 28, and Heinrich Struebig, 48, were still missing after having been kidnapped Tuesday.

A third West German employee of the organisation abducted Tuesday, Petra Schnitzler, went free a few hours later, declining to give details of her ordeal.

The kidnappings were believed to be linked to the trial in West Germany of a Lebanese Shi'ite, Muhammad Hammadi, who Wednesday was sentenced to life imprisonment for a 1985 hijacking and the murder of a U.S. passenger.

A Bonn government spokesman said Wednesday the affair was "still not very clear" and that the authorities did not know who was responsible.

ASME-Humanitas had been urged several times to withdraw its West German employees from Lebanon because of the risks of kidnappings, he said.

Palestinian sources said the Palestine Liberation Organisation had declared the group "undesirable" and urged it to close its centre near the Al-Miya wa Miya refugee camp, in the Sidon region, where the kidnappings took place.

The decision was taken by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and was conveyed to R. Struebig on Sunday. But he refused to comply, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Aid Group Given Notice

NC1805091789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] In the south, Abu 'Ali Wajih, the official in charge of the Palestinian military [word indistinct] in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp, has charged that the West German ASME-Humanitas organization knows the identity of the party that kidnapped its members in the Sidon area several times. Humanitas however, he added, neither informed the PLO nor the Nasirite Popular Organization's leader of the kidnappers' identity.

He announced that the presence of this organization in the Palestinian camps in Sidon is no longer desirable. He noted that this decision was made by the PLO leadership in Tunis and that the German organization has been given a 10-day notice to leave the camps.

UK 'Magazine' Cited on Iraqi Arms Shipments

NC1805065389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] A British magazine has asserted that Iraq has given the Christian militia in East Beirut at least six Soviet-built surface to surface FROG-7 missiles. Quoting Christian sources in East Beirut, the magazine disclosed that Iraq gave these tactical 70 km-range missiles to the Lebanese forces.

The sources added that the missiles were part of at least two Iraqi arms shipments, which the Lebanese forces have received lately. They also disclosed that Iraq has supplied the Phalangists with a number of Soviet-built T-58 assault tanks, rocket launchers, and a large quantity of ammunition.

U.S. Said Trying To Reconcile 'Awn, Syrians

PM1705140789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 89 pp 1, 2

[Harvey Morris report: "Khaddam Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Nobody Can Defeat Syria in Lebanon"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Despite Syria's vehement attacks on General 'Awn, Lebanese sources in Paris speak of U.S. efforts to reconcile Syria with the head of the military government in Beirut.

The sources say that Washington is at present trying to lift Syria's "veto" against Gen 'Awn imposed by Damascus and its allies in Lebanon as a precondition for a cease-fire between the warring parties. Syria's precondition is Gen 'Awn's withdrawal from government, or rather his departure from the country and abandonment of all government responsibilities in return for a cease-fire and resumption of dialogue between East and West Beirut.

The sources further say that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker discussed this matter with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze when they met in Moscow last Wednesday. The U.S.-Soviet joint statement spoke of the need for all the Lebanese parties concerned to remain as they are without change of names or faces. It also said that the United States and the Soviet Union were prepared to make all the necessary efforts to contribute to a settlement of the Lebanese crisis taking the interests of all parties into consideration.

The sources take the phrase "all parties" to mean "recognition" of Gen 'Awn as an essential party and to mark an end to the calls for his removal.

The sources add that the U.S. mediation has made some progress, but Damascus set the precondition that there should be no meeting or agreement between it and 'Awn or between its Lebanese allies and 'Awn before the election of a new president. [passage omitted]

'Awn Criticizes Syrian Position in Lebanon

NC1805095389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] In an interview with the London-based MIDDLE EAST INSIDER magazine, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that a return to normal relations with Syria will take place as soon as Damascus abides again by the Arab League and the UN Charters, implements the international resolutions calling for its withdrawal from Lebanon, and stops interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Gen 'Awn expressed the hope that the conference of Arab kings and presidents would accomplish what the Arab foreign ministers have failed to achieve.

He added: The Syrian regime is nearing its end after consuming itself on domestic, Arab, and international levels. It no longer has any Arab or international friends. This regime has given away the utmost; it has given away the Golan and the Palestinian resistance. However, its plots in Lebanon have been exposed after failing to deliver the remainder to its masters.

Regarding the talks held by the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers, Gen 'Awn said: The two superpowers are searching for peace for themselves and not for us. Otherwise, the United States would have pressured Israel to implement UN Resolution 425 which called for its withdrawal from the south, and the Soviet Union would have pressured Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

Speaker Husayni's Bodyguard Killed; Clash Denied

NC1805084789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Calm is prevailing on all the traditional combat lines in the capital and its southern suburb and on the mountain, except for the firing of some warning shells on the ports of Juniyah and 'Amshit to prevent ships carrying Iraqi weapons from entering them.

In another development, security sources have reported that gunmen opened fire this morning on Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Isa, an officer candidate of the Chamber of Deputies police. 'Isa was taken to the American University Hospital where he died. It must be recalled that Officer Candidate 'Isa was a bodyguard of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Meanwhile, a security source has denied that a clash has taken place in the area of Wadi Abu Jamil, as was reported by some media in the Eastern area.

West Beirut Clash Leaves 4 Wounded

NC1805061989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Security sources in West Beirut have reported that a clash took place at 0530 today between armed groups in the Wadi Abu Jamil area, leaving four people wounded. Some reports said that the clash was between Amal and Hizballah gunmen. However, the security sources denied knowing the identity of the gunmen, adding that gunmen appeared in the Riyad al-Sulh Square and the Central Post Office area.

Shelling of Jubayl, Kasrawan Coasts Reported

NC1805134589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Syrian attacks on the Kasrawan and Jubayl coasts resumed this afternoon. Fifteen shells fell on these coasts between 1500 and 1530 today.

Shelling in South, Israeli Overflights Reported

NC1805064089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Last night the towns of Al-Nabatiyah, Haris, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, and Haddathah came under artillery fire from the positions of the occupation forces and their agents. It has been reported that two soldiers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon were wounded when their position in Tibnin was shelled.

In the meantime, a Zionist-Lahd force advanced in the direction of Bra'shit. Zionist gunboats have been seen cruising the shore between Al-Zahrani and Sidon.

Meanwhile, Zionist warplanes flew over the city of Sidon and its camps last night, drawing antiaircraft fire.

In another development, last night the agent Lahd militia threatened to shell the port of Sidon and the city's government house if flour were not sent to Jazzin and the occupied strip; 0900 today was set as a deadline for this. The militia demanded that 100 tons of wheat be sent to Jazzin and 300 tons to the occupied border strip. A source in the Nasirite Popular Organization has explained that the share for the occupied border strip's inhabitants is handed over under the supervision of Deputy Farid Sarhal and that this share is regularly sent there.

JANA Says Al-Asad Not To Attend Arab Summit

LD1705180889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 17 May (JANA)—JANA has learned from reliable Arab sources that President Hafiz al-Asad, president the Syrian Arab Republic, will not attend the Arab summit conference to be held in Rabat [as received] on 23 May.

Velayati Message on Al-Asad Visit to Tehran

JN1705165689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received an Iranian delegation led by Dr Seyfollah Vahid-Dastjerdi this morning. The delegation included Qasem Moheb 'Ali Khan, director general of the Middle East Directorate; Mahmud Hashemi, director of the Syria Desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry; and Ahmed Nur Bala, assistant health minister. The meeting was attended by the director of the Asia Desk at the Foreign Ministry and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

The Iranian delegation conveyed to the foreign minister a message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on the subject of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also dealt with bilateral relations and the means to bolster them in all spheres, the Iranian leadership's assessment of the progress of the Iraq-Iran negotiations, and the current developments in the region.

Radio Commentary Accuses 'Awn of Mufti's Death

JN1705142289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: 'Awn's Zionized clique has continued to inflame the security situation in Lebanon and violate the cease-fire. The clear objective is to torpedo the Arab League efforts, turn the Arab committee into a security committee, and ignore the basic essence of the Lebanese crisis—namely, reforms, restoration of Lebanon's unity, liberation of the south from Israeli occupation, and the restoration of security and tranquillity in Lebanon.

Hence, it was neither strange nor coincidental for the agent gangs to commit their heinous crime and assassinate His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic of Lebanon. This crime is only a link in the terrorist, criminal scheme of these hired gangs.

Any reading of events in Lebanon and the developments there indicate that Israel is the first to benefit from the continuation of the crisis and from the deterioration in the security situation. Israel has always worked to render the situation in Lebanon tense through direct interference or its agents and terrorist and criminal tools. The Iraqi regime has colluded with the Israeli scheme in supporting 'Awn's Zionized clique and in implementing the terrorist scheme aimed at fragmenting Lebanon and destroying its Arabism.

These facts are known to all honest Lebanese who are concerned about Lebanon's unity—territory and people—as well as by the Lebanese who cooperate with every constructive effort to end Lebanon's crisis. These facts are also known by the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland. These facts clearly show the danger from Zionized clique not only to Lebanon but also to the entire Arab nation. This clique represents the Zionist cause. To save Lebanon from it and move in the right direction to entrenche its unity and Arabism and provide tranquillity and stability for all its sons, this cause and its symbols must be eliminated, access for direct and indirect Zionist influence should be blocked, and the terrorist scheme perpetrated by the Zionized clique should be foiled.

The way to this is clear. However, it requires concentrated efforts to achieve the political solution based on reforms, equality, and justice among the Lebanese so that they will unite their efforts to liberate southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

However, this Zionized clique works to obstruct and undermine these efforts to peddle the Zionist plan to fragment and destroy Lebanon and turn the Israeli occupation in the south into a fait accompli and a base for a new expansionist steps so that it will be easy for the Zionist enemy to eat away and more land.

The new events and developments in Lebanon have reiterated the need to move firmly and earnestly to put an end to the Zionized clique and hired gangs that participate in the terrorist and criminal Zionist scheme and receive aid and support from Israel and Baghdad.

Confronting the Zionist plot in Lebanon is an Arab duty and responsibility as much as it is a national Lebanese duty because of the need to consolidate the struggle of the Arab masses in the interest of pan-Arab security and safety. This duty is required by the interests of Lebanon and the Lebanese to safeguard Lebanon's unity—territory and people—and to regain its position within the framework of its Arab neighbors. Thus, it will become a power on behalf of the Arab nation, its causes, and struggle, not a burden on it or a weak link, which the Zionist enemy and its agents will try to exploit as a permanent threat to pan-Arab security and to the Arab nation.

Prime Minister Discusses Pay Raises, Media Role

JN1405095889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi met yesterday evening with reporters in Syria in the presence of Information Minister Muhammad Salman. The meeting was

attended by the directors general, editors in chief, and section heads of the news corporations and the General Broadcasting and Television Station.

During this meeting, the prime minister explained the basic tasks of the media as the means for providing news and education, and as a mirror that must reflect everything affecting citizens or gains the attention of the public. He reaffirmed the importance attached by the government to information and to its national role, which must be carried out under all circumstances, especially the dissemination of political and economic news and the reporting of all the developments achieved in Syria, which display its efficiency and strength.

Al-Zu'bi also explained the objectives of the legislative decrees issued by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad which provide for raising the salaries and wages of state employees and pensioners, for raising the ceiling of pensions, and also for raising the heating allowance—raises which are manifestations of an important gift from President leader Hafiz al-Asad. He added that this gift reflects the president's interest in the situation of these employees and of citizens in this country. He also underlined the importance of the pay raises in improving their conditions and said that they will naturally result in developing their work, strengthening their initiative, improving the performance of their tasks, increasing production and improving state services in various spheres.

The prime minister said that the funds for the pay raises have been made available without affecting the prices of supply commodities and basic foodstuffs in any way, and are made possible by the capabilities and resources which are increasingly available as a result of the balanced economic policy. This confirms the national economy's ability to meet the basic requirements of the citizens' daily life.

Al-Zu'bi also stated that economic development is being steadily enhanced in various agricultural and industrial fields and added that this has resulted in the better provision of domestic products and resources, taking the performance of previous years into account.

During this meeting, a comprehensive dialogue was held about the various topics that are of interest to the media regarding the provision of the basic requirements for work and production and also for promoting the work mechanism in the country in general and in the public sector in particular. The dialogue also tackled the issues that reflect the masses' needs and desires in the country.

The prime minister answered various questions and talked on topics that were raised. The reporters voiced their appreciation of the importance of the meeting and affirmed their commitment to the objectives of internal construction and confrontation of external threats and also to translating all the ideas and directives of leader President Hafiz al-Asad into clear-cut action-oriented guidelines, considering the constructive national role being played by the Syrian media.

Aghanistan

Government Troops Reopen Kabul-Jalalabad Road

BK1805015689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2217 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Islamabad, May 17 (AFP)—Afghan Government troops have launched a fresh offensive to drive out mujahidin guerrillas from bases around Jalalabad after reopening an important road linking the city with the capital, Kabul, Western diplomats and resistance sources here said.

According to diplomats and well-informed resistance sources here Wednesday [17 May], government troops have for the first time in more than two months succeeded in reopening the Jalalabad-Kabul highway.

The troops seized control of a narrow 30 kilometer (20 miles) stretch from Jalalabad's suburb to Sarowbi District in the west.

The district almost midway on the highway was captured by the rebels in their early March offensive on Jalalabad.

But resistance sources and diplomats quoting different reports now say the mujahidin have lost control of the strategic strip and government supply vehicles waiting at Sarowbi can now dash through.

The diplomats attributed the failure to maintain their control to the "coordination problem" between the guerrilla factions.

Government troops reopened the road while Hezb-e Eslami guerrillas of the Yunis Khalis faction were handing the rotational duty of guarding it to fellow Jamiyat-e Eslami and Harkat Enquelab-e Eslami-e parties last week.

Khalis party guerrillas said during their 40 days of control they thwarted over a dozen regime attempts to reopen the highway.

The diplomats said earlier that a 200-vehicle convoy trying to get through in the first week of May was wiped out by the guerrillas with 140 to 160 vehicles destroyed or abandoned.

Resistance sources said the road was being used to bring in "mostly arms and ammunition" for the troops under constant attack from the east, south and north of the city.

Government forces launched a fresh offensive overnight after the mujahidin repulsed the three-day May 6 counter-attack during the Muslim festivities of 'Id al-Fitr.

9,000 Mujahidin Attack Posts Near Khowst

BK1805032889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that about 9,000 mujahidin have launched a major attack on the Kabul regime's military posts near Khowst. Taking advantage of rain and cloudy weather, the mujahidin, who were hiding in the nearby mountains, approached the posts and targeted them when the Kabul administration's war planes could not fly. The Kabul regime has (?denied) the attacks.

It is also reported that the mujahidin have destroyed a big ammunition depot in Mazar-e Sharif near the Soviet border. The reports say 360 soldiers of the Kabul regime were killed and 100 wounded in this attack; 176 tanks and armored cars were also damaged. The ammunition depot was near the airport and hence, some aircraft of the Kabul regime were also damaged in the explosion. The Soviet Union recently sent arms and ammunition to this depot.

State Security Forces Capture 20 Missiles

LD1705152189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] State security organs prevented the occurrence of shocking incidents in the city of Kabul by capturing 20 surface-to-surface missiles. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that individuals associated with Sayyar, the Wahhabi, deployed 5 U.S. (Sukr)-20 and 15 surface-to-surface missiles with British markings in Paghman District. They planned to fire them at residential areas of Kabul. The sinister criminal plot was uncovered in good time and was neutralized with the cooperation of the peace-loving people of the locality.

Mujahidin Leader Discusses Battle for Jalalabad

PM1705114689 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 May 89 p 7

[Telephone interview with Shaykh Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, defense minister in the provisional Afghan mujahidin government, by Muhammad Mahjub in Jeddah; date not given]

[Text] [Mahjub] What has been achieved by your visit to the Kingdom?

[Muhammadi] Praise God, my visit to the Kingdom was very successful. I thank God for his blessings, and thank the Muslim brothers in general as well as the Saudi brothers, and first and foremost the custodian of the two holy mosques, his wise government, and the generous Saudi people. May God bless them all in this life and in the hereafter. I held useful and fruitful talks with Saudi officials on many important issues in the Afghan context.

[Mahjub] How would you describe the role of the custodian of the two holy mosques' government in backing the Afghan jihad?

[Muhammadi] Praise God, the Kingdom's positions are always honorable, as they emanate from true Islam. The Kingdom continues to back the Islamic jihad generously. Its only concern is to back Islam and Muslims throughout the world. The Kingdom has not ceased its aid or political, economic, and moral support for the mujahidin. This position has been constant and fixed since we started the jihad march.

[Mahjub] Why has Jalalabad still not been captured?

[Muhammadi] The Soviets and their agent forces have set up strong fortifications in Jalalabad over the past 10 years. And as you know, the mujahidin only have defensive weapons. They have to face the enemy's tanks, artillery, air force, and missiles. This is why it is difficult to capture a city such as Jalalabad immediately. It takes time. But, praise be to God, the mujahidin's morale is very high. Their operations are continuing. Some mujahidin have been martyred and others have been besieged. But despite this, the mujahidin have not retreated one single step. They are advancing—which is an evident victory, thank God. As for the final victory, it will take some time.

[Mahjub] When do you expect to enter Jalalabad?

[Muhammadi] We are sparing no efforts in backing the mujahidin in Jalalabad in various fields. We support their steadfastness. The mujahidin are besieging Jalalabad and are advancing, thank God. True, there are some military and economic difficulties, but we will overcome them, God willing.

[Mahjub] When do you expect to overcome the difficulties facing you in Jalalabad?

[Muhammadi] In a short period of time. Within this month, God willing.

[Mahjub] Have military operations been unified under your command?

[Muhammadi] Yes, they have, thank God. Their operations are unified under one command. The mujahidin commanders have formed a shura [council], under whose supervision operations are carried out in many places.

[Mahjub] Do you receive aid?

[Muhammadi] We expect to receive it from the Muslim brothers and some of the other states that back the Afghan cause.

[Mahjub] What is the Kabul regime's position now?

[Muhammadi] The mujahidin, God willing, will start their jihad campaigns and operations against Kabul and several areas in the various provinces. The jihad will prevail throughout Afghanistan. The present climate will help expand jihad operations. This was difficult in winter, because of the cold weather and freezing temperatures. There is still some snow, but it will disappear in 45 days. Then we will be able to launch our major offensives. In the past period, we were busy with the formation of the government and ministries, but now we will work and expand the jihad in several areas in the various provinces, including Kabul. A week ago I went to Qandahar and spent 3 days there, where I toured various areas. The agent government could not identify us. And, praise God, the Kabul government, Qandahar, and the various provinces are now about to fall to the mujahidin. At present the agent Kabul ruler has nothing left but aircraft and long-range guns. Other than that, he has no power or popularity.

[Mahjub] How do you face aircraft and guns?

[Muhammadi] With God's help and support. The jihad is the miracle of the divine power.

[Mahjub] Are the Soviets still present in Kabul?

[Muhammadi] [No answer given]

[Mahjub] What is the reason for your visit to the Kingdom?

[Muhammadi] To brief officials in the Kingdom on the latest developments in the Afghan issue and to expose the lies spread by the enemy.

I clarified the situation and said that the Russians have not departed as claimed; their departure is only ostensible. They are present both directly and indirectly: Indirectly, they provide the agent government with various types of weapons; directly, there are Russian advisers and specialists in Kabul using false identities.

[Mahjub] Shaykh Rabbani [reconstruction minister in the mujahidin government] visited Iran and met with the Afghans residing there. What are the results of that visit?

[Muhammadi] Last week I went to Qandahar, returned to Peshawar, and then went to Saudi Arabia. Yesterday I arrived in Islamabad from the Kingdom. And I still have not met with Professor Rabbani, so I know nothing about what was achieved.

[Mahjub] You left the Kingdom following a contact from Peshawar. What was behind that contact?

[Muhammadi] As defense minister, I shoulder a great responsibility and have many things to do with the jihad, the mujahidin, the government, and ministries. This is why I had to return quickly to Peshawar.

[Mahjub] Has every ministry assumed its responsibility in full?

[Muhammadi] Yes. Praise God, all the ministers and ministries have assumed their responsibility. They are now busy completing appointments and fulfilling their duties earnestly and actively.

[Mahjub] Have the ministries moved into Afghanistan?

[Muhammadi] The government will enter Afghanistan, God willing.

[Mahjub] When?

[Muhammadi] Shortly, God willing.

[Mahjub] Have the defense and reconstruction ministries entered Afghanistan?

[Muhammadi] They will do so shortly. We have not yet entered because we are busy with appointments in the ministries. The government started from nothing and faced difficult situations and numerous problems. The formation of the new government started from nothing, and obviously we will face problems, but with God's help, we will complete the appointments. Then we will take steps toward moving some ministries and basing the government inside Afghanistan.

[Mahjub] Have any of the Afghan troops fleeing from the agent government joined the mujahidin?

[Muhammadi] Hundreds of military personnel have surrendered to the mujahidin.

[Mahjub] It has been reported that a Pakistani brigade has joined the mujahidin. What truth is there in this?

[Muhammadi] These are lies and fabrications by the enemy. The truth is that the Muslim Afghan mujahidin are confronting the enemy.

[Mahjub] Why are some states slow to recognize the mujahidin government?

[Muhammadi] That is their affair. I cannot determine the reason for their nonrecognition. It is solely their affair!

[Mahjub] How is the situation in Qandahar?

[Muhammadi] It is good, thank God. The mujahidin are busy with the operations against Qandahar airport, which they now have under siege. They are in a strong position. [Muhammadi ends]

Concluding his interview with 'UKAZ, Shaykh Muhammadi expressed his thanks to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his highness the crown prince, and his highness the second deputy [prime minister], as well as the royal family and the entire Saudi people for their noble positions toward the mujahidin.

Kabul Invites Mujahidin To Join Loya Jirgah

BK1805022489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1902 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 17 (AFP)—The Afghan Government has invited all opposition movements and military commanders of the mujahidin both inside and outside the country to take part in the traditional "Loya Jirgah" or grand national assembly expected to open here next week.

A spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, Nabi Amani, said Wednesday [17 May] that messages had been sent Tuesday to the various guerrilla groups guaranteeing them "full security" and said "all their proposals and ideas will be taken into account with full privileges and rights."

The "Loya Jirgah" is the 520-member traditional Afghan assembly that the 1987 constitutions set forth as the body that will decide the country's most important questions. But while it elects the president, it cannot overrule his decisions.

Observers note that appeals to the opposition to join the Jirgah are not new. Neither the two large mujahidin alliances based in Peshawar and Tehran nor the main rebel leaders inside Afghanistan have ever responded to President Najibullah's offers to join the assembly, which they consider to be tightly controlled by the ruling government.

Among government officials, however, there is still the hope that certain of the more "liberal" rebel commanders inside Afghanistan linked to former King Zahir Shah will eventually participate with the current Soviet-backed government.

They say that the departure of Soviet troops in February and the "failure" of the guerrilla's two-month offensive to take the eastern city of Jalalabad mean Tuesday's night's call for mujahidin participation was "not routine."

Mr. Amani said that offers to participate in the Jirgah were made in particular to mujahidin commanders who control the provinces of Nuristan in the east and Bamyan in the center of the country. It was proposed that they elect their own jirgahs and take part in the main assembly next week.

Monday's meeting is officially being held to decide whether to extend the state of emergency in force for three months. But the Constitution gives the Jirgah the right to discuss subjects of its choice and the rest of the agenda is still open.

Elections for 320 of the assembly's members continue until Thursday.

In the Province of Kabul, 13 candidates linked to the ruling party are vying for 10 positions.

About half of the remaining candidates are picked by President Najibullah from among "political and social personalities" allowing the Kabul government to keep some degree of control.

Najibullah Visits Special Guards Unit

LD1705231589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Esteemed President Najibullah, supreme commander of the armed forces, today visited the general command of the special guards Scud unit. The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that esteemed Najibullah, accompanied by Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, arrived at the headquarters of the Scud unit and was welcomed by Major General Sayyed (Azam) Sayyed, the commander in chief of the special guard, the leadership of that command officers, and troops. Esteemed Najibullah received the soldiers salute and toured various parts of the unit. During the inspection, he shook hands with a number of troops and officers.

Esteemed Najibullah then took part in a gathering of the leadership of the general command of the special guard, troops, NCO's, and officers of the Scud unit. In a speech, he pointed out their outstanding role and great tasks in maintaining nationwide peace and defending the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

Subsequently, the commander of the Scud unit and one soldier, on behalf of the others, expressed gratitude for the consistent attention of esteemed Najibullah, president and supreme commander of the armed forces and assured him that they are paying their debt to the homeland and doing their national duty in maintaining nationwide peace in the country. To implement the humane policy of national reconciliation, they will struggle to the last breath and spare nothing in the face of attacks by the Pakistani aggressors and their puppet extremists in defending our independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

Esteemed Najibullah then awarded medals, badges, and extraordinary promotions to a number of the unit's staff who had played a worthy role in the combat operations, and he expressed pleasure at the military discipline prevailing in that unit.

Kabul Mayor: Mujahidin Have Lost Support

PM1705112289 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 17 May 89 p 11

[Robert Fox dispatch: "Mujahidin 'Have Lost Kabul' Through Attacks on Civilians"]

[Text] Kabul—Radiating goodwill and self-confidence, Gen Muhammad Hakim, 49, Mayor of Kabul, says he feels more secure than ever, three months after Soviet troops left Afghanistan.

"If the mujahidin had a chance of taking the place, they should have staged an insurrection in the city in February as the Soviets left," he said yesterday.

"Now they have lost because here in Kabul people know that we, the government, are their servants, not those who fire the rockets, killing poor people."

He added: "I can go anywhere I like in the city, and everyone wants to talk to me."

In presiding over the feeding and the running of Kabul and to some extent its defence, the mayor is responsible for a city mirroring much of the disruption and desolation of 10 years of war in Afghanistan.

"In some ways it is a nightmare," he said. "Three years ago our census projected an inner-city population of 1.3 million.

"Our latest estimate—and of course it isn't precise—is that in the past three years this has grown to over 2 million because of the refugees.

"That produces some problem, particularly when you consider that the 1978 master plan for the development of the city envisaged a population rising to some 1.5 million in 25 years.

"We're already well above that. Think of the strain on infrastructure, schools, roads, drains and hospitals."

The mayor admitted that the biggest crisis of food supplies was last February as the last Soviet contingents were leaving.

Previously stocks were adequate for the city, which maintained a reserve of 40,000 tons of flour, he said.

"We now find we are the fighters for the people, the real Mujahid (fighters of the just war)," the mayor added.

"They (the rebels) stop supplies coming in... They started this new bloody business, and are killing their own people, not Soviet outsiders."

Food supply difficulties had eased, he said, with the municipal silo producing some 260 tons of flour and bread a day.

"A sign of things improving is the price fall. Flour last summer was 175 Afghanis (now about 50 pence a kilo). Then it went to about 1,000 Afs in the winter, and is now down to 650. It is still not good, but is getting better."

The mayor said his new coupon system provided full supplies of fuel, food, and commodities such as soap and cooking oil for 220,000 families.

He reflected similar satisfaction with the city's defence, based on three rings of positions, the farthest 35 miles out. A fourth line is made up of fire bases in the city centre.

On the exact number of the garrison he would not be drawn. "Should we say the number is adequate for the job?" was his coy reply. "The same goes for other big cities like Qandahar, Herat and Samar Kheyl. We have enough to respond," he said.

He reserved his contempt for the main weapon of the muhajidin in striking at Kabul—the anti-personnel rocket.

The garrison was becoming more expert in detecting the guerrillas' launch sites, he said.

"So now they fire blind, using remote control. This means the rockets are not aimed, and frequently strike women, and children playing in the street."

He feigned surprise at the West's under-estimation of the Afghan army, which, he said, had a long and proud tradition.

The prowess of the officer corps should have been appreciated, because so many of its members were trained in the military academies of America, France and even Britain.

India

Spokesman Denies LTTE Charges Against IPKF

BK1805014489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] India has taken strong exception to the reported remarks of the LTTE leader, Mr A. Balasingham, that the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] is performing the role of an occupation army. Replying to queries by newsmen in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said that there is no question of India acting in any such manner. He described the reported remarks of Mr Balasingham as falsification of facts. The spokesman said these are intimidatory tactics adopted by the LTTE, who are interested in seeing the IPKF out of Sri Lanka. While the LTTE professed its willingness to talks, its actions are always on the contrary. The spokesman clarified that the presence of the IPKF in Sri Lanka was at the request of the local government under an agreement signed with India. Their withdrawal from Sri Lanka will have to be negotiated between the governments of both India and Sri Lanka, the spokesman said.

Commentary on Nepal's 'Well-Planned Strategy'

BK1705122489 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 May 89

[Political analyst Gopal Mishra's commentary]

[Text] These days India-Nepal relations have received unprecedented attention in the electronic and the print media of both countries. While in India the discussion on this sensitive and vital issue has brought various facets into focus, unfortunately in Kathmandu a number of journalists and other intellectuals have been put behind bars for having views different from those being propagated officially by Nepal. Also, some efforts have been made to distort the facts in Western media to tarnish India's image. Has this anti-Indian stance in Nepal taken place only recently, or is this an outcome of a deliberate and well-planned strategy of an anti-India lobby active in Kathmandu for past several years to undermine the centuries-old traditional close relationship between the two countries? The answer to the last question is yes.

Those who are active against India in Nepal belong to different interest groups catering to the needs of some foreign powers. They have developed close liaison with the palace in Kathmandu which unfortunately has lost touch with its own people. Surprisingly, none among the palace advisers has realized that by undermining the close and traditional relationship with India, they are doing great harm to their own country and its people.

India's traditional linkages with Nepal came under strain for the first time in 1960 when the democratically elected government in Kathmandu was sacked by the then King Mahendra. This gave a chance to all sorts of lobbies to be active in Kathmandu because the royalty was alienated from the common people. Again, the 1950 treaty of peace and friendship between India and Nepal which had ensured security and sovereignty came under pressure in 1975 when during the coronation of the present king of Nepal, a voice was raised on behalf of the royalty that Nepal should be declared a zone of peace.

India has rightly declined to accept this proposal because it clandestinely tried to undermine security interests of India. Clause 5 of the zone of peace proposal refers to hostile activity. Even if a newspaper criticized the Nepalese Government, it could be deemed as a hostile action. The claim of Nepal that nearly 100 countries of the world have approved this proposal is of no consequence. Majority of the so-called supporters are distant countries and they are indifferent toward it. While Indians cannot be allowed within 12 kilometers of Nepal-Tibet border, the Chinese personnel are allowed in the Terai belt [along the foot of the mountains] almost at a stone's throw from the Indian border. The recent purchase of sophisticated weapons by Nepal from China has complicated the situation further and it has also exposed the myth of zone of peace.

Another dangerous happening in Nepal must be an eye-opener for all those who are trying to play down this crisis is the implementation of the recommendations of the Gurung Commission. It was appointed in 1983 by Nepalese Government under the chairman of Mr Harikh Gurung. He has envisaged a 17-point program to cut the umbilical cord of historic and cultural relationship between India and Nepal. His suggestions include ban on foreign music, which indirectly means Indian music, and

setting up of colonies of the hill people of Mongoloid races in the Terai belt to reduce the majority of the Hindi-speaking people known as Madesi [Nepalese term for ethnic Indians living in Terai region]. Madesi constitute 55 percent of the total population of Nepal. Madesi people do not have adequate representation in the Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] and to reduce their importance nearly 2.2 million of them have been removed from the rolls of citizenship. To put them under more pressure, Hindi education in schools in Terai has been discontinued by the Nepalese authorities.

If the present trend is any guide, it is almost clear that some in the palace do not want close and warm ties between India and Nepal. They have adopted a multipronged strategy to undermine the relationship including unleashing of propaganda to tarnish India's image among common Nepalese people, introduction of work permits for Indians which is against the spirit of the 1950 treaty and imposition of restrictions and heavy custom duty on Indian goods. They are adopting pressure tactics to get maximum political, financial, and diplomatic mileage from India without any reciprocal commitment. This is time King Birendra appreciates the utility of India-Nepal relationship which is bound by blood, culture, and geography. He must come out of the cobweb of falsehoods and lies created around him. India has always recognized that Nepal's interests are tied up with her which is why India granted the Nepalese Government and people concessions and rights far in excesses of those stipulated by the international law and conventions.

Agreement Reached With Pakistan on Travel

BK1805023189 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] India and Pakistan today agreed to ease travel restrictions between the two countries. This was announced in New Delhi today by the union minister for tourism, Mr Shivraj Patil, and his Pakistani counterpart Mr Yusuf Raza Gilani. They were attending a joint convention of Indian and Pakistani travel agents. The two countries also agreed to hold official-level meetings to sort out problems. Mr Patil and Mr Gilani said even ministers could meet, if the need arose.

The convention was organized by the Indian Association of Tour Operators and the Travel Agents Association of Pakistan.

Rao Discusses Issues With Yaqub Khan in Harare

BK1805040689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, now in Harare attending the nonaligned coordination bureau meeting, yesterday had a meeting with the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Among the issues discussed were meetings between the defense and home secretaries of the two countries. The Indo-Pakistan joint commission meeting to be held in July in Islamabad was also figured in the discussions.

Mr Rao also had discussions with the foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Burkina Faso.

Meanwhile, the political and economic committees continued their deliberations yesterday.

First Aircraft Carrier To Be Ready 'Soon'

BK1305081489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The first indigenously built aircraft carrier will be ready soon. The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral J.G. Nadkarni, told newsmen at Visakhapatnam today that the new aircraft carrier will replace the INS [Indian Naval Ship] Vikrant. He said that the country has capacity to build warships for other nations as well. Admiral Nadkarni distributed gallantry awards, including 18 Nausena [Navy] medals and 17 Vishishth Seva [exemplary performance] medals to officers and sailors of the Eastern Naval Command.

Scientists Develop Fire Control System for Tanks

BK1305131289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Scientists at the Instruments Research and Development Establishment—IRDE—at Dehra Dun have designed and developed an integrated fire control system for the main battle tank Arjun. The fire control system is day-cum-night sight with laser ranging capability. It also has a microcomputer which gives tank crew all-weather fighting capability with a high degree of accuracy.

The IRDE director, Mr O.P. Nijhavan, told visiting journalists that IRDE has the facilities for developing optoelectronics control system for any major weapon system.

Iran

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives for Talks 18 May

LD1805145889 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived here Thursday [18 May] for talks on mutual ties and the issue of Afghanistan.

Upon arrival, he told IRNA "the Afghan situation has taken a new turn because of the interferences of the U.S., Pakistan and Saudi Arabia."

Vorontsov, who also serves as Soviet ambassador to Kabul, said the current situation necessitates a fresh round of talks between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Neither the Soviet Union nor the Islamic Republic of Iran could ignore Afghan developments because of their long borders with that country, he said.

Landlocked Afghanistan is hemmed in by Iran, Pakistan and the Soviet Union, with the tip of the remote north-eastern Wakhan tail touching China in the Pamir Heights. But of late rank outsiders have tried to meddle in Afghan affairs through proxy.

On Tehran-Moscow ties, the Soviet official said "We have pinned fresh hopes on the forthcoming visit to Moscow of (Majlis Speaker) Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani."

Interior Minister Meets With Afghan Mujahidin

LD1605195189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Members of Afghanistan's eight-party mujahidin alliance met with the interior minister this morning and talked to him about the political, social, and economic difficulties facing Afghan refugees. They also expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The interior minister promised to help find solutions to these problems. He recalled some of the experiences of the Palestinian revolution and the help given by the Western world to the supporters of the regime occupying Qods [Jerusalem] to distance the people of Palestine from that territory. He called on the brother Afghan mujahidin to plan in such a way as to safeguard and preserve the deep sentimental, cultural, and economic links with Afghanistan.

In conclusion, the interior minister stressed the unity between Muslims and resistant forces in their confrontation with the Afghan regime and called for an all-around strategy based on Islamic and revolutionary principles and aspirations until the victory of the Islamic front is achieved and the establishment of a government which is accepted by all the Muslim people of Afghanistan. He also called for strengthening the combatants on Afghanistan's fronts.

Soviet Minister Konarev Continues Visit

Visits Esfahan Steel Mill

LD1705090589 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Issues and problems of the Esfahan Steel Mill were discussed in a meeting between Deputy Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Moqimi and visiting Soviet Railways Minister Nikolay Konarev, Tuesday.

A spokesman for the national steel company said Konarev promised the Soviet party would increase the mill's capacity to 1.9 million tons of steel per year within the shortest possible period.

Konarev arrived here last week.

Joint Shipping Line Planned

LD1705183189 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—A joint Irano-Soviet shipping line would start operations at the Caspian Sea simultaneously with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow next June.

The agreement was reached during the second round of talks here between visiting Soviet Railways Minister Nikolay Konarev and Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Seyyed Kya.

The two also agreed on Iran's purchase of two ships from the Soviet Union. The final sale terms for the vessels will be studied at an expert meeting in baku the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan next month.

Among other topics discussed today were expansion of cooperation concerning goods transportation by sea, rail and road as well as the entry of Iranian trucks to Baku and thence to Europe via Soviet soil.

According to the agreement, the Soviet Union is to help Iran build the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad (N.E. Iran), construct border checkpoints and Sarakhs and Tajan for trucks and trains, and electrify its railroad.

The Soviet Union will also provide Irna with necessary machinery and equipment for its railways projects.

Konarev also discussed Tehran-Moscow technical and industrial cooperation and ways of promoting mutual economic ties, in two separate meetings with Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi and Acting Commerce Minister 'Abd al-Hoseyn Vahaji, Wednesday.

Meets Acting Commerce Minister

LD1705190589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Soviet Railway Minister Konarev this afternoon met and conferred with Acting Commerce Minister Vahaji. At the meeting, they talked about the long-term agreement on the exchange of goods between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, as well as the expansion of bilateral border cooperation and trade.

On the possibility of exchanging consumer goods on the borders between the Khorasan, East Azarbayjan and West Azarbayjan Provinces and Soviet Azerbaijan and Turkemania, talks were held and views were exchanged.

At the meeting this morning between Mr Konavrev and Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Nabavi, Iranian-Soviet cooperation in industrial and technical fields was surveyed. The two ministers talked and exchanged views on the purchase of railroad cars and cast-iron pieces

from the Soviet Union, the exchange of experts between the two countries, and cooperation in the field of construction machinery, as well as industrial cooperation between the USSR and the Arak machine tool factory.

3d Round of Joint Talks

NC1805080789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The third round of talks in the current session of the permanent committee for Soviet-Iranian economic cooperation was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. The Central News Unit reports that during these talks the two sides reviewed the areas of joint relations and assessed the talks that were held this week between the two countries' high-ranking economic delegations. These talks are under way on the eve of the visit by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet leader. Stressing the historic significance of this visit and its significance on relations between the two countries, the two sides exchanged views on the documents and agreements that are to be signed during this visit.

During the visit they also studied the contents of the final protocol on the recent talks between the two delegations which is to be signed in Tehran today.

Mo'ayeri: Pilgrims 'Determined' To Go on Hajj

LD1705181489 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Rasht, May 17, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to send its quota of 150,000 pilgrims to this year's hajj despite obstacles being put in its way by the Riyadh regime, a senior official said today.

"We are determined to perform the hajj pilgrimage and will make all efforts for participation of Iranian Muslims in the religious-political ceremonies," 'Alireza Mo'ayeri, deputy prime minister for political affairs added.

He said that although not much time was left for this year's hajj the Saudi regime is yet to announce its readiness to accomodate the caravans of Iranian pilgrims.

Following its cold-blooded massacre of hajj pilgrims on July 31, 1987, Saudi Arabia, in violation of divine commandments has blocked entry of Iranian pilgrims for the second year running.

Of late, world Muslims have become vociferous in their demands to wrest control of Mecca and Al-Madinah from the Saudi rulers, who since their seizure of the Hejaz in the 1930 have proved their incompetence to administer the Haramayn Sharifayn [two holy mosques].

Elsewhere in his interview with IRNA, Mo'ayeri said the need has been felt to revise certain articles of the country's constitution dealing with centralization of the executive branch, in the light of the present trend of the Islamic Revolution and society.

He expressed hope that problems facing the executive branch would be removed once the 25-member Constitutional Review Council, set up on the orders of Imam Khomeyni, makes necessary amendments and puts it to public referrendum.

Mohtashemi Protests Riyadh's Ban on Pilgrims

LD1705185589 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said the Riyadh regime bars real Muslims from performing the hajj on the orders of the United States and Israel.

"Since the regime ruling Hijaz has shown its incompetence to administer the holy sanctuaries, the Muslim world should get into action to cut the hands of polytheists from the haramayn [the two holy mosques]," he told a group of visiting Lebanese Muslims Tuesday. The 160-member group who are the families of martyrs, are here at the invitation of the Martyr Foundation.

Islam does not allow any government to fiddle with its laws, and despite Iran's goodwill, Saudi Arabia has again this year thrown impediments in the way of Iranian pilgrims.

Demands have been growing in the Muslim world for an independent body of 'ulema to administer the holy cities of Mecca and Al-Madinah ever since the Saudi regime—which seized the Hijaz in the 1930s—cold-bloodedly massacred 400 pilgrims near Islam's holiest site in July 31, 1987.

Smuggling Explosives Into Saudi Arabia Admitted

LD1705152589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Iran has admitted that it smuggled into Saudi Arabia a quantity of explosives during the 1986 pilgrimage season. This was stated by Ahmad Khomeyni in a letter that was published yesterday in the Iranian ETTELA'AT.

REUTER quoted Ahmad Khomeyni as saying that he published his letter in ETTELA'AT in order to help explain the reason behind the removal of 'Ali Montazeri as successor to his father last March.

Montazeri described the smuggling of explosives into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was carried out by the so-called Revolutionary Guards, as a wrong act. He said that they brought shame upon us during the pilgrimage season.

Ahmad Khomeyni acknowledged that this kind of destructive act is sometimes carried out without any obstacle, and sometimes it meets with failure.

Seminar Discusses Relations With EC

LD1605193589 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Foreign affairs experts, scholars and Foreign Ministry officials on Tuesday reviewed prospects for relations between Iran and Europe including the 12 nation European Community (EC) in the next three years, at a two-day seminar titled 'Europe-1992.'

Director-general of the Foreign Ministry Institute for Political and International Studies, Abbas Maleki, discussed the rather grave implications in Iran-EC political and economic relations if Muslim Turkey—a predominantly Asian country—becomes an EC member.

The development would make the Islamic Republic a neighbor country of the European Community, he added.

Head of the Foreign Ministry's strategic studies group BR [as received] Saqafi thought that in future, Europe will politically become more and more independent of the United States and will try to establish closer relations with the Third World.

Assistant to the Dean of Imam Sadeq University of Tehran Dr Bavand believed that Europe was aiming at political unification, as well as collective security, economic unity, and for NATO's commitments.

Western Europe, he said, seems closer to its goals but has fallen short of establishing a political unification. He added that developments in the Eastern bloc would precipitate the move for political unity in Western Europe.

The last speaker at today's session Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mojtahed Shabestari said in connection with Iran-Europe relations that Islam as a religion should be presented in well defined terms at international forums. However, talks and ideological interface between Muslims and Christians in Europe would help clear the air between followers of the two religions, he added.

Culture Minister Returns From Pakistan

NC1705140289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Mr Farhadi, minister for culture and higher education, who had gone to Pakistan heading a delegation to participate in the fourth session of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] science and technology committee, returned to Tehran this morning. According to the Central News Unit, Mr Farhadi delivered a speech at the session and declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand on various scientific and educational issues. He introduced two outstanding scientific organizations in Iran: the center for Research on the characteristics and use of materials and polymers; and the center for research and expansion of materials in the polymer industry. He invited Islamic countries to make use of Iran's vast research possibilities in order to upgrade the level of science and technology in their own countries.

During this visit, our culture and higher education minister held talks with the scientific and educational officials of Pakistan. He visited the center for research on the study of the Persian language in Pakistan, and he promised the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance and cooperation in expanding this center as much as possible.

Commentary on 'Bloody Purge' of Iraqi Forces

NC1605173489 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 May 89 p 11

[Commentary: "In the Margin of the Bloody Purges in Iraq"]

[Excerpts] A week after his death, various opinions and views continue to be voiced by political circles on the reasons behind the death of Iraqi War Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah. [passage omitted]

An independent study of this incident that does not take into consideration analyses by Western or regional circles clearly shows that this death stemmed from a bloody purge by Saddam of the Iraqi Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

But why Saddam should resort to such methods to remove those who were his best friends and associates and who served him and the Ba'thist regime during the imposed war is a question that is on the minds of many.

Since the beginning, the Ba'thist regime was a police state which was dependent on the strength of its Armed Forces. The Army was always considered to be the backbone of the Ba'thist regime, and it was always an effective force as the only deterrent to the revolution and popular resistance. [passage omitted]

Once Saddam's mind was relatively set at rest that the war between Iran and Iraq would not break out again, he thought of removing all those people who might, in one way or another, play a role in his overthrow.

Another issue that should not be forgotten is the confidential information which helped the Iraqi regime during the imposed war to save itself from "certain death." It is clear that whatever has been revealed so far on the massacre of the Kurds, the extensive use of complex chemical weapons, and the military, propaganda, and

espionage assistance provided by both East and West, is actually not a complete picture of everything that did happen, but only one side of the coin.

There are definitely very few key figures in the Iraqi Army who are aware of all or large part of these secrets, and this is something that may ring warning bells for world arrogance.

Another issue that should be taken into consideration and which gives a wider scope and aspect to the reasons and motives behind 'Adnan Khayrallah's death is the regional problem and the incidents that are developing in the area within the framework of a creeping U.S. coup in the Middle East. After the conclusion of the imposed war and Iraq's salvation, we are witnessing a rapid change of course by Saddam's regime toward the formation of a small alliance with the pro-American regimes in the region such as Egypt, Jordan, and North Yemen (its biggest ally during the imposed war).

The link between this and the death of the Iraqi war minister may seem vague at first glance. But if we regard it more carefully, and assess it within the context of the resignation of Egyptian War Minister Abu Ghazalah and that of Zayd al-Rifa'i, Jordan's "number two" man, during the past couple of months, its link with 'Adnan Khayrallah's death will be further clarified. It is within this context that one can conclude that new pawns are being found for the formation of an American structure in the region.

Editorial on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's UN Remarks
NC1605163889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 May 89 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Who Is Condemned?"]

[Excerpts] Britain is currently trying to make the UN Security Council accept its request to condemn the Islamic Republic for having called on the Palestinians to take revenge on the mentors of the Zionists for the crimes perpetrated by Israel. The representative of the island of Britain to the United Nations has been assigned to convey the request of the London government to the UN Security Council members and to call on them to condemn Iran for having stated this. [passage omitted]

The United States and Britain are now doing their best to portray the logical remarks by the speaker of the Majlis on the shameful crimes by Israel and on the impudent support by world arrogance for Israel as a "horrifying issue" which should be condemned by all countries and which even calls for a stand against it by the Security Council.

The question that should be asked is: Who is condemned? Those who perpetrate crimes and those who are overtly supporting the criminals, or those who condemn this inhuman situation and these inhumane methods?

Who should be condemned? Those who most impudently support the Israeli occupiers and thus enable more Zionist crimes to take place, or those who oppose such inhuman interventions and call for the establishment of the rights of the oppressed Palestinians?

The masks have fallen from the faces of the United States and Britain, and they are trying in vain to hide their ugly faces once again behind other masks. The truth is that the United States and Britain have been enraged since World Jerusalem Day by the fact that the Iranian nation and the supporters of the Islamic revolution throughout the world once again upheld the ideals of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

What the speaker of the Majlis stated during the Jerusalem Day ceremonies was nothing new. It was an emphatic reiteration of the past stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Palestinian issue. But Israel and its mentors are enraged by the following: Why were the 8 years of imposed war and 8 years of crimes perpetrated by Iraq and its supporters unable to stop the Iranian nation from continuing its anti-Israeli stands, and why do the supporters of the Islamic revolution continue to call for the liberation of the Islamic territories of Palestine?

Who should be condemned? The mentors of the oppressed Palestinians or the mentors of the criminal Israel? The mentors of the suffering, imprisoned, and martyr-nurturing Palestinians, or the mentors of the Israeli executioner?

If the United Nations and the Security Council meet to discuss this issue seriously, many realities will be clarified and it is then that the contemporary world will once again find the opportunity to see things as they really are. [passage omitted]

The United States and Britain are now facing a wave of awakening and alertness throughout the world, and especially in the world of Islam. They feel a threat and thus seek, by resorting to their known tactics of propaganda, to portray themselves as the oppressed; and this is impossible.

It is in the interests of everyone for this issue to be raised at the United Nations and the Security Council so that Britain and the United States—as the impudent mentors of criminal Israel—and the mentors of the oppressed Palestinian nation will both have their say. In this way the alert conscience of the world will make the final judgement on who should be condemned. But the United States and Britain should rest assured that the free-thinking human beings of this world will never vote in favor of the Israeli criminals and their impudent mentors, even if the enemies of humanity resort to the most disgraceful methods of propaganda and psychological warfare.

Musavi-Ardabili Interviewed on Leadership Debate

LD1605210889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System and the Expediency Discernment Council [EDC] attached to the Council for Revision of the Constitution, met this afternoon under the chairmanship of [Chief Justice] Musavi-Ardabili.

In an interview with our correspondent at the end of the session, Musavi-Ardebili explained the committee's decisions:

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] Excellency Musavi-Ardebili, as chairman of the Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System and of the EDC, please tell us what has been decided so far by the committee.

[Musavi-Ardebili] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Many decisions were made by the committee. They relate to Article 5 of the Constitution, Article 107 [word indistinct] and 110, 111, and 112 which deal with the leader, the qualifications for leadership, scientific and ethical qualifications, the extent of his powers, the duties of the experts [khobregan], and other issues relating to the leadership. These issues were discussed.

Decisions were made on the scientific qualification of the leadership, and decisions were made on other qualifications necessary in the leadership. A decision was made on the election [entekhab] of the leader; a decision was made on [word indistinct] of the leader. As for Article 112 of the Constitution, a decision was made about whether the leader should be an individual or a consultative group. These matters were discussed. The (?discussions) have now reached the subject of the experts.

The experts [words indistinct]. Either on the basis of those articles or within them—issues about the duties of the experts, the number of experts, the qualifications of the experts. Presently, we are at this stage: We are investigating the powers of the leadership. God willing, if the discussion on the powers of the leadership is concluded, then we will proceed to the (?next issues). [end recording]

Musavi on Work on Centralizing Executive

LD1705123789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] The cabinet has named 24 May, the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, as Resistance and Victory Day. If it is approved by the Majlis, that day will be declared a public holiday as of next year. Prime Minister Musavi announced this at the end of today's session of the cabinet. [passage omitted]

As the spokesman of the committee in charge of centralizing the executive, Mr Musavi referred to the progress of that committee's work: In view of the complexity of executive affairs in that committee, all the views of the members, the cabinet, the Majlis deputies, and experts have been considered and it has been decided that there should be consultations with the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution [showra-ye baznegari-ye qanun-e asasi] regarding some obscure issues. The prime minister then asked all the experts and those who have some expertise in executive and organizational affairs to convey their views for reform to the committee for centralizing the executive.

ETTELA'AT Cited on Leadership Issue

LD1705163389 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA 'AT in its editorial Wednesday said the separation of political leadership from religious leadership as conceived for the future is likely to pose problems within the government or pit the government against the religious authorities or vice versa.

It said in the current review of the Constitution one theory and legal solution in respect of the principle of leadership is to omit the requirement for his being the ultimate religious authority and instead simply consider his potential for attaining that status.

Or one could settle for his being a mojtahid (jurisprudent) and decide on his competence for issuing religious decrees, and the paper noted, in that case the system for the authoritativeness of the religious leader will proceed within the bounds of its natural and mass-dictated course.

The majority of the people will either agree on one single religious leader or each sector of the masses will follow a different religious authority, though the leader of nation and of the Islamic system can be another person.

The leader is a person who is vested with political authority, and who supervises the realization of Islamic aspirations, laws and social principles and political and administrative affairs and conducts them as dictated by the shari'a law [Islamic law], and other laws adding to the precedent.

"During Imam Khomeyni's era," said the daily, "the topic does not and will not offer a substantial point for debate because of his religious, political, and scientific authority and because of his natural and indisputable excellence over all others."

"But," noted the daily "let us assume that a future leader will not personally be a religious leader, but rather fall back solely on the attestation of the experts assembly as a person meeting the necessary requirements for being a religious leader.

"Then if in his era there happen to be many distinguished, influential... religious leaders markedly excelling him in scholarship, and popularity and their academic standing, how can we prevent the probable and inevitable clashes—at least in theory—between them and the leader in social and political matters?"

In its editorial on the same subject the daily KEYHAN said fiqahat (authoritativeness in shari'a law), and knowledge of religion should top other necessary qualifications for state leadership.

Because it said the raison d'etre of the Islamic system is to ensure excecution of divine dictates which may not be possible without the person's full understanding of religion.

It said since theology has a wide scope with a wide range of persons pretending to know it all, then certain limits and standards and criteria should be determined as a guideline for fiqahat and for deciding on who meets those qualifications.

The daily said although the value of fiqahat is very important for leadership but because the administration of the affairs of the Islamic government and its protection as well as the protection of religious values requires such other qualities as piety, courage, firmness, prudence, impenetrability, etc, then the former should not be given an excess weight to overshadow the latter qualities.

The state leader, the editorial said, should have demonstrated such qualities in the tide of events, and therefore, the condition stipulating the person's "presence in political and social scenes" as well has his reputation for prudence and good management" are among the conditions which should be emphasized in the text of the law.

The editorial recommended the qualifications of personalities be closely examined "so that the bitter experience of resignation of the (former) future leader of the Islamic revolution and its bitter implications will not be repeated."

IRNA Commentary on Montazeri's 'Downfall'
LD1705152289 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 17 May 89

["Hojj. Khomeyni: Enemies Led Ayatollah Montazeri To His Downfall"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 16 IRNA—Imam Khomeyni tried time and again in the course of at least six years to prevent Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri from distancing himself from the Islamic Republic and sympathizing with its opponents, published documents reveal.

In a detailed letter addressed to the ayatollah who resigned from deputy leadership in March, the imam's son, Ahmad, expressed profound regret that Montazeri failed to heed the imam's calls.

In their last meeting, apparently in February, it seemed certain that at least the political relationship between tutor and student had come to a sad end.

"You (Montazeri) spoke for more than half an hour. The imam kept silent. Then you stood up to leave and the imam said: 'Most of what you said were untrue. May God forgive me and bring about my death.'" [sentence as received]

The letter published in full in Tehran's newspapers Tuesday covered more than three full-length pages, intended to shed light on events which led to the ayatollah's downfall, which surprised many people and officials.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni noted that the imam gave a strong hint in a public message as back as July 1983 that Montazeri was in real danger of being influenced by the enemies of the Islamic Republic "who, God forbid, may create a catastrophy."

But events after October 1986 show a steady deterioration of the ayatollah's support for the state.

On October 4 of that year the imam wrote to Montazeri stressing that the ayatollah's reputation was being seriously questioned in light of murder and other charges brought against Mehdi Hashemi, the brother of Montazeri's son-in-law, Hadi.

He proposed that Montazeri personally request the information ministry to investigate the charges, or if that was not possible, to remain silent.

"What is certain and which I insist on is that the charges must be investigated," the imam stressed in a polite but firm letter.

Five days later Montazeri replied in a nine-page letter in which he said he was "not afraid to speak the truth" and he strongly defended Hashemi, who was the ayatollah's appointment as head of the Islamic Liberation Movement organization.

In the end he said in view of the developments he had no choice but to stay away from political activity and stick only to his teaching at the Qom theological school.

Hashemi was charged in March and executed in September 1987 for killing a prominent ayatollah before the revolution and other murders after. Many weapons and secret state documents were found in his home.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni also said it was commonly believed that Hashemi organized an aborted mission to carry large amounts of explosives to Saudi Arabia during the hajj, presumably in 1986.

Khomeyni quoted numerous excerpts from Hashemi's tape-recorded confessions admitting playing an instrumental role in influencing the ayatollah's views by feeding false and misleading information on the country's affairs.

The ayatollah boycotted his class over the Hashemi affair, prompting the imam to invite him to Tehran for a meeting with all senior officials, including President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

"In this meeting, the imam, with great humility asked you to break your strike against the state. He told you: 'Do you regard us as your enemies? You certainly cannot say such a thing.'

"Then with a very sincere and warm gesture, he (imam) said: 'I appeal to you to stop these actions and do your work.' You did not accept. He (imam) said: 'I am fond of you. I am a devoted friend. Listen to an admirer and a friend, and do your work.'

"Most violently you (Montazeri) said: 'Allah does not impose upon any soul a duty but to the extent of his ability,'" which is a verse quoted from the Koran.

"At this point I looked at my friends. I saw they all had their heads down in shame. There were tears in Mr Khamene'i's eyes. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and I, in front of the imam, told you that you believe in velayat-e faqih (rule of the supreme jurisprudent)... so why don't you listen to the imam?

"You then repeated (the Koranic verse). The imam calmly looked at you. No doubt whisperers of evil had told you not to compromise an inch until Mr Hashemi is freed."

From the summer of last year, matters got worse. Several letters were written to the imam and other senior officials, bitterly criticising state policies and actions, most notably the execution of members of the baghdad-based Munafiqin [Hypocrites] terrorist organization.

The letters were private but were widely distributed by the ayatollah's close associates.

One quoted was dated last October 1 to the prime minister in which the ayatollah said "narrow-minded, draconian and uncaring officials" must be removed and the Information Ministry as well as Revolutionary Guards must "review their methods."

"Do you see the air you breath is from an atmosphere far from the dominant climate of the society? It's true that if these 'musts' are implemented Iran will become a flower garden. But, in present circumstances, is practically possible to carry them out?

"As the imam says, you want to draw a nice history (for the Islamic Republic). If your (view of) history becomes stained, you won't care about supporting the state or Islam.

"That's why the imam constantly says: 'I don't care about history. I must act upon my religious duty'."

Montazeri's recent letters, Khomeyni wrote, "Injured the heart of the imam and the hezbollah people" and led to the imam's heartbroken letter accepting the ayatollah's resignation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni who throughout his letter addressed himself to "your highness, ayatollah" many times expressed his personal admiration for Ayatollah Montazeri and apologized for his blunt narration of events.

"I'm sorry that some sentences are sharp. That's because we have learned forthrightness from you."

He said the ayatollah had always been a source of inspiration to him and that he was among the first in 1979 to propose Montazeri's appointment to deputy leadership.

Khomeyni hoped that Montazeri would renew his friendship with senior officials and the imam, and return to the fold. But this was only possible if he distanced himself from liberals and the Munafiqin.

"In view of the fact that I have found purity and sincerity in you, I believe god will guide and protect you. God willing, you will not distance yourself from the imam and, once again, you will attract your good old friends.

"Of course, this is possible if, for a year or two, you won't do anything irrational and be totally in the line of the imam and stay clear of the liberals and the Monefeqin."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni's letter is dated April 29.

Montazeri's Confidants, Supporters 'Imprisoned'

TA1705132289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] It is being said in Qom that 100 of Ayatollah Montazeri's confidants and active supporters have been detained and imprisoned during the last (?2 months). The regime's Ministry of Intelligence is representing a large number of these individuals as U.S. spies.

Our fellow strugglers report that the regime's agents have attached Ayatollah Montazeri's bank deposits, and transferred them to the account of the Ministry of Intelligence.

Nepal

Spokesman Denies India's Claim of Harassment

BK1805010089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2152 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Kathmandu, May 17 (AFP)—The chief Nepalese government spokesman has denied India's claim that a work permit system serves to harass Indians in Nepal.

"The Nepalese Government has time and again asserted that there is no harassment meted out to Indians and people of Indian origin living in Nepal," chief government spokesman R.S. Bista said Wednesday [17 May].

He also denied what he said were repeated statements by the Indian External Affairs Ministry that a work permit scheme had been extended to all of Nepal, calling such claims a "big lie.".

"The work permit is applicable only in three districts including Kathmandu out of the 75 districts of Nepal," Mr. Bista said.

"India is making a blatantly false report about the introduction of the work permit system across the country," he added.

Last week an Indian Government official said his country was concerned over "increasing discrimination" against the employment of expatriate Indians in Nepal, warning that it could worsen already strained relations between the two neighbors.

He said a 1950 India-Nepal treaty of peace and friendship permitted Indians and Nepalis to take up jobs in either country free of regulations normally applied to foreigners.

Relations between the two countries have been strained since late March, when bilateral trade and transit treaties expired and India subsequently closed most of its border crossings with Nepal, leading to severe shortages of fuel and other vital goods in the country.

Pakistan

Reports Say Soviet Forces Return to Afghanistan

BK1805024789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] An official spokesman has said in Islamabad that Pakistan is reviewing reports that some Soviet soldiers have returned to Afghanistan to take part in military operations there. He said Pakistan does not have official confirmation of these reports. If Soviet soldiers have been sent back to Afghanistan, it will be a flagrant violation of Geneva accords.

Meanwhile, Afghan mujahidin have again alleged that technical experts of the Indian Air Force have arrived in Kabul in order to assist Afghan crews to take care of the (?Soviet-made) war planes. India has denied these reports.

Spokesman on Afghan Rebel Government, India Talks

BK1705155789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan will support the efforts being made by the interim Afghan government to secure membership in the Nonaligned Movement. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will announce the Pakistani position on this at the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in Harare. The spokesman said that if the interim government applies for UN membership, Pakistan will support it as well.

He said that a four-member delegation of Iran-based Afghan mujahidin leaders has come to Islamabad in order to continue their talks, and an agreement between them on further expansion in the interim government is expected to be arrived at soon.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said that the interim government will be recognized at an appropriate time when it becomes more viable and effective in Afghanistan.

The spokesman also informed newsmen that Pakistani and Indian defense secretaries are to meet shortly to hold talks on the Siachen Glacier issue. The new date for these talks is expected to be announced soon.

He said that Pakistan supports the [word indistinct] of the two parts of Cyprus in which communities of the two sides enjoy equal status. Pakistan also supports the negotiations being held under the auspices of the UN secretary general in this regard.

'Spokesman' Welcomes Sino-Soviet Summit Results

BK1705160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Pakistan welcomes the rapprochement that has emerged as a result of the summit meeting between leaders of the Soviet Union and China in Beijing. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that relations between the PRC and USSR have normalized after 30 years as a result of the summit meeting. This will strengthen global peace and promote peace in the region, and will have positive effects on the settlement of regional issues through peaceful means.

Turkish Cypriot Leader Arrives in Islamabad 17 May

BK1705143589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktas arrived in Islamabad from Karachi today. He will meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto during his stay in the federal capital. He will also call on Iqbal Akhund, the prime minister's adviser on political affairs.

Meets With Bhutto

BK1705161989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Rauf Denktas, now in Islamabad, has held talks with the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Rawalpindi today. He conveyed Turkish Cypriot greetings on her election as the prime minister of Pakistan describing it as victory for democracy as well as for women in the Islamic world.

The prime minister, reciprocating the greetings, assured Mr Denktas Pakistan's continued support for the Turkish Cypriot community.

Earlier, talking to Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative before leaving for Islamabad, the Turkish Cypriot leader thanked the government and people of Pakistan for supporting the just cause of the Turkish Cypriots. He also paid rich tributes to Pakistan for hosting millions of Afghan refugees. He also supported Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Causes 'Untold Hardship,' 'Suffering'

BK1705111489 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] At the ministrial level discussion with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], they referred to a press interview purported to have been given by a representative of the Indian Government and given wide publicity in the national press. They maintained that it was a total misrepresentation of the exact situation in the northern and eastern provinces. They asserted that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] had ceased to be a peacekeeping force and its role today is that of an occupying army and that it had brought about untold hardship and suffering to the people in the north and the east. It has escalated violence and intensified the conflict.

They also pointed out that since the arrival of the IPKF nearly 5,000 civilians in the north and the east have lost their lives and normal activities in these two provinces have been disrupted. They said that they were in Colombo not to engage themselves in charges and counter-charges, but for a specific purpose of exploring all possibilities to bring about peace, stability, and normalcy in the northern and eastern provinces. They regretted that at this juncture responsible persons seek to promote controversies and deviate the attention of the people from the burning issues facing the country.

The talks today centered around the disruption of all economic activities—agriculture, fishing, industry, and trade in the north and the east.

The ministrial delegation comprising A.C.S. Hameed, minister of high education, science and technology; Ranil Wickremasinghe, minister of industries; Sirisena Cooray, minister of housing and construction; and U.B. Wijekoon, minister for public administration, home affairs, and provincial councils, met the LTTE delegation comprising Mr A.S. Balasingham, Mr Yogaratnam Yogi, and (Paramamurthy) today.